

NORFOLK & SUFFOLK.

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A. HEATON COOPER

DESCRIBED BY

W. G. CLARKE.



U.S. AIRMEN'S GIFT

The window in the memorial chapel in St. Andrew's, Quidenham, Norfolk, to the dead of the 96th Bomber Group, U.S. Army Air Force. It was designed by Reginald Bell.

9149
Laugh—and Live Longer!
KELSALE - CUM - CARLTON,
Suffolk, England (Canadian Press)
—This village, population 694, has
125 "laughing Methuselahs" (thir-
ty-two of them over 80), who
qualify for old-age pensions.
Births outnumber deaths by four
to one. The village is the healthi-
est in Britain. The reason, Ches-
ter James, 70 years old, maintains,
is that "we laugh and joke more
than most."



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Mrs. H. J. Cody

Vanishing Villages

160 England Fighting Against Sea's Inroads

AN appeal for a national "war" against Britain's most relentless enemy has been made by several coastal towns in Britain. King Neptune, it is reported, is now waging a more successful conflict against these shores than for many years.

Although the fight against coast erosion was not entirely suspended during the war, much leeway was lost. Large sums of money will be required during the next few years to stem further inroads from the ocean.

Even rocky Cornwall is losing one and a half square miles every year, and at other places the sea is eating inland at the rate of fifty feet every twelve months! Many places have been completely overwhelmed.

Dunwich, now a small, sleepy place of some 150 inhabitants, was once the capital of East Anglia. It had more than fifty churches, walls surrounded it, and it was the seat of a bishopric.

Shipden, which stood near the modern Cromer, and from which Roger Bacon set sail for Iceland, has also been overwhelmed. So, too, has the historic part of Staithes, Yorkshire, where Captain Cook was a grocer's apprentice in his youth. It was engulfed in a single night, and the site is now in deep water, 300 yards from the present slipway.

Not even all the Cinque Ports and their dependencies still remain. The Winchelsea of to-day is not the Winchelsea of the eleventh century. It is, in fact, the third town of that name.

The present menace to East Anglia threatens to undo much reclamation work. Experts declare that big agricultural tracts may be swamped, and that the 'bulge' on the map of that part of Britain's coast may be sliced away unless immediate measures are taken to stem the fast-developing erosion.

On the West Coast the danger is less serious, though even there some one-time thriving towns have vanished. Off the shore at Blackpool once stood the village of Singleton, but all that marks the site to-day is Pennystone Rock.

Sheep pastures, as well as agricultural land, are endangered. Romney Marsh, one of the finest sheep-rearing regions in Britain, is in peril of being engulfed, and even the cliffs

that Britain is vanishing at a really alarming rate, there is certainly cause for concern at the way the map is being changed. Unless effective combative steps are taken quickly, it is likely that students a few generations ahead will hardly recognize the outline of the United Kingdom as it is to-day. Father Neptune will have carved out large slices, and towns we know nowadays will no longer exist. — 'Teachers' World'.

9129 Saxon Kiln Found in England

The finding of ancient Saxon relics at two places in England is reported by the Canadian Press. The discovery at Thetford of the first Saxon pottery kiln to be found intact in Britain has supplied a long-sought link between Roman and medieval times. At Chislet a sixth century Saxon spearhead has been dug up.

Here's Richness!

MR. J. L. SMITH-DAMPIER, a Thetford man, has done his beloved corner of England great good service by his compilation of *East Anglian Worthies* (Basil Blackwell, 8s. 6d.). By East Anglia one commonly means the counties of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Natives of either would resent the attempt of any adjoining county to claim inclusion, for we are a jealous brotherhood.

"Sleepy" is an adjective often applied to East Anglia; and it is true that there is something about its fat meadowlands, its quiet old villages with their square church-towers rising above rook-haunted trees, its sandy coasts and lazy rivers, that suggests a peace very like sleep.

But take up this book and observe its rich product of men and women who have made impressive marks on English history. There was not much "sleepiness" about Nelson, Constable, Gainsborough, Tom Paine, Crabb Robinson, Coke ("upon Lyttleton"), Edith Cavell, F. D. Maurice, Palgrave, of the *Golden Treasury*, Fitzgerald, of the *Rubaiyat*, Cardinal Wolsey, Rider Haggard—to mention a random few.

Cody

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK



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A. HEATON COOPER

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W. G. COOPER
WOLSEY'S GATEWAY, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

All that remains of the College of Secular Canons founded by
Cardinal Wolsey

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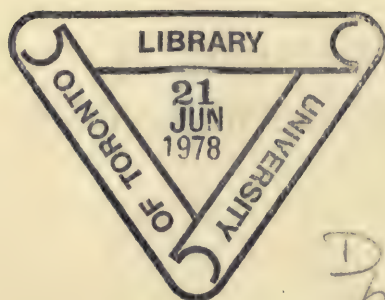
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PREFACE

ALTHOUGH there is an extensive literature, both historical and topographical, relating to East Anglia—the local collection of the Norwich Public Library contains 16,000 books and pamphlets dealing with Norfolk, and the Suffolk output is almost as great—apart from the coast and the broads it is little known, even to those who love the beauties, and treasure the associations, of their own homeland.

That none of it is deserving of such neglect I have endeavoured to show, striving to avoid the repetition of widely-diffused knowledge, and only using historical references to elucidate the significance of existing conditions. To the labours of my numerous literary predecessors, I am, nevertheless, indebted for many facts, but I have utilised the knowledge derived from a personal acquaintance with every town and village in

Norfolk, and a majority of those in Suffolk. Mr. Basil Oliver's "Old Houses and Village Buildings in East Anglia" has provided both stimulus and information.

W. G. C.

NORWICH,

December, 1920.

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NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

TRAVELLERS in the twin counties of Norfolk and Suffolk are prone to judge the scenery by that limited portion visible from the windows of a railway carriage. This is a most fallible guide, as railway engineers naturally select routes with the easiest gradients, and thus avoid those sharp contrasts of hill and dale which give enduring charms to the landscape. The common belief that East Anglia is flat has, however, some justification. Nevertheless it is untrue that "the most prevailing aspect is that of a dead flat, tiresome by its uniformity," as was asserted by a writer a century ago. It is a question of comparison. A fenman who had spent all his life on the great level, when he first saw the Castle Hill at Thetford, expressed his amazement that there was such a height anywhere in the world,

though the slope from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the hill is only 100 feet. In the eighteenth century, W. Arderon described the cliffs along the Norfolk coast as "dreadful heights" and "stupendous and amazing precipices," while the Mr. Pratt who wrote "Gleanings in England" in 1804, discovered "far-extended mountains" between Sheringham and Cromer.

As a mere matter of altitudes it must be admitted that one-third of Norfolk and Suffolk is less than 100 feet above sea-level, another third between 100 and 200 feet, while only a few isolated spots in Norfolk and a plateau of about 100 square miles in area in south-west Suffolk are above 300 feet in height. Until the old lighthouse at Cromer was washed away in 1866 it was said by the Rev. John Gunn to be on the highest ground in Norfolk, the benchmark being at 248 feet 10 inches. Before the second Ordnance Survey of the county there were at least a dozen "highest spots in Norfolk," but the highest point of which the surveyors obtained a definite level was a benchmark 1,400 yards N.N.E. of Aylmerton Church, at the northern corner of Beacon Plantation, which has a height of 332 feet. The actual highest point is, however, 175 yards N.W. of this

spot, where an altitude of 340 feet is attained. This is almost equalled by the summit of the spire of Norwich Cathedral, which is 315 feet from the ground, and therefore nearly 340 feet above the sea-level, though easily exceeded by the silver firs which add their height to the ground-level of the Beacon Plantation at Aylmerton. Borrow referred to "that cloud-encircled cathedral spire," but more captious critics have used it as a simile and described Norfolk as "a plain with a spike in the middle." The highest spot in Suffolk is near Haverhill, on the chalk ridge, where an altitude of 352 feet is reached.

Wide vistas are not, however, lacking, for in a district of low altitudes a rise of even 100 feet may reveal a large extent of country. As Reyce so well put it with reference to Suffolk, when compiling his "Breviary" early in the seventeenth century :—"This country, delighting in a continuall evenes and plainnes, is void of any great hills, high mountaines, or steep rocks, notwithstanding the which it is nott alwayes so low, or flatt, butt that in every place, it is severed and devided with little hills easy for ascent, and pleasant ryvers watering the low valleys, with

a most beautifull prospect which ministreth unto the inhabitants a full choyce of healthfull and pleasant situations for their seemly houses." Or, as another writer has pictured it :—

“ Heathelad uplands and lonely dingles,
Slow streams stealing through level meads,
Flats where the marsh with the ocean mingles,
Meres closeguarded by sentinel reeds.”

From the low hills on the edge of the fens the far-flung horizon is almost lost in the haze of distance, the western tower and lantern of “ Ely’s sacred Fane ” looming up on the isle many miles away and appearing to dominate the great plain. It is visible from the tower of Swaffham Church, the top of Bromehill, Weeting, from Iken, Eriswell, and many of the hills near Mildenhall. Norwich Cathedral is not so well placed, for it was erected on the low-lying ground bordering the River Wensum in a great hollow almost surrounded by hills. Yet its grey crocketed spire may be seen from afar. There is one place in Suffolk, and I believe one only, from which it may be glimpsed with the sun in the west, and that is on the river-level at St. Olave’s, looking up the Wensum Valley. From the elevated ground near Skeyton Church the range of vision extends from Baconsthorpe

NORWICH FROM MOUSEHOLD HEATH, NORFOLK

With the Cathedral, Castle Museum, and Roman Catholic Church of St. John
(on the right)



AMEYTON COOPER

Church on the one hand, to Norwich Cathedral on the other, and the Cathedral may also be seen across twenty miles of intervening country from Felbrigg Park. In the valleys of the Waveney and Stour, and along the Orwell there are many famous views, that from Stoke-by-Nayland Church, which crowns a ridge of hills rising from the valley of the Stour, being one of the best known. From Trimingham Beacon, in Norfolk, long reputed the highest point in the county, though it is only 226 feet above sea-level, between thirty and forty churches may be counted, and the late Mr. R. J. W. Purdy informed me that he had identified fifty-two from the tower of Aylsham Church. From the roof of Raveningham Hall, the St. Nicholas lightship may be seen off Yarmouth; Boston "Stump" and Skegness in Lincolnshire from Hunstanton Cliffs; and Thetford Waterworks from Ickworth House, near Bury St. Edmund's. Perhaps the finest view in Suffolk, for extent and variety of country, is obtainable from the turf-covered, sand-rutted Icknield Way as it crosses the ridge north of the River Lark. The southern horizon is some fifteen miles distant far away across the wide valley of the Lark, while the northern is of equal extent,

embracing the high grounds in Norfolk beyond the valley of the Little Ouse.

Geologically, Norfolk and Suffolk are the most youthful parts of England, the strata being among the last laid down, and not subjected to the great disturbances which have tilted, contorted and consolidated the beds in other parts of the country. The older deposits have little effect on the scenery, of which the greater part may be said to have the chalk as a foundation, while much of the subsequent carving is due to glacial action. Despite the long rolling undulations of the chalk hills, the gravel ridges, and the occasional escarpments, the two counties are essentially a plain, through which rivers meander somewhat sluggishly at the bottom of gently-sloping valleys.

The dip of the beds is eastward, at a very small angle with the horizon. Older formations are exposed in Norfolk than in Suffolk. Kimeridge clay comes to the surface in a long, narrow strip from Southery to near King's Lynn, though its existence has been proved in an area of about 100 square miles between Lynn, Downham Market, Cockley Cley and Great Massingham. It gives rise to small patches of heavy, sticky clay,

difficult to cultivate, and so largely under grass. It lies below the greensand hills of Sandringham, forming a low-lying tract that merges into the fens, and consists chiefly of a marine clay, brought into the sea by rivers along whose banks many huge reptiles disported themselves. Industrially, it seems probable that the Kimeridge clay is destined to occupy an important position in the national life, owing to the existence of rich oil-bearing shales. Large works have been erected at Setch, a mine sunk at West Winch, and the presence of oil-bearing shales, some of which yield 70 gallons of oil per ton, proved to be more than 500 feet in thickness. Significant indications of the highly saturated condition of the lower measures by free oil have been observed, suggesting the possibility of an oilfield from which the overlying shales had received the large quantities of free oil they now contain. So long ago as 1835 Caleb R. Rose, a Swaffham surgeon and geologist, mentioned the occurrence of bituminous shale at Southery in an article in the "Philosophical Magazine." It there forms the surface of the greater part of the ancient island of Southery.

Forming a narrow outcrop which runs south-

wards from Hunstanton to West Dereham, the lower greensand rises in picturesque hills at Snettisham, Dersingham and Wolferton. This is also a marine deposit much later than the Kimmeridge clay. The western side of the ridge is absolutely infertile from an agricultural point of view, consisting chiefly of white, dry sand, which gives rise to the large heather and conifer-covered areas bordering the road from Lynn to Hunstanton. In places it is hardened into a ferruginous sandstone, generally known as "carstone," but sometimes called "gingerbread stone." This is extensively quarried at Snettisham, where the huge quarry is remarkable for a wonderful growth of the very local hoary mullein (*Verbascum pulverulentum*). Notwithstanding Mr. Basil Oliver's assertion that it is an "ugly brown sandstone," I consider it a building stone which is beautiful when new and a glorious golden-brown, while its durability increases with age. Further, the utilisation of local building material gives a special character to a district, and adds greatly to its charms. Carstone was used by many of the old church-builders in west Norfolk, particularly at Fordham, Denver, Wimbotsham and Watlington, and even so far away as Guestwick

and Melton Constable ; it occurs in farm buildings and is a not infrequent material for cottages. In some places, as at Castle Rising, the chips are inserted with curious effect into the wide mortar joints, treatment known as " galleting " or " garetting." Part of the eastern side of the greensand ridge weathers down to a red sandy soil, but part retains the characteristics of the western slope, and is occupied by barren commons. At Congham the white, dry sand is sufficiently consolidated to form building material, and two cottages built with it are probably unique in the county.

Lying in a depression, with the western slope greensand and the eastern slope chalk, Roydon Common is the largest in Norfolk, and from many points of view the most attractive. The greensand slope is chiefly covered with bracken and heather, dotted with a few ancient hawthorns, and its side is scarred with the faces of two large pits. Half-way up the slope is a little rush-bordered pool, so rarely disturbed that it is a secure haunt for ducks and waders. On the sandy areas on the top of the ridge nest the stone curlew and ringed plover, and the common curlew is a frequent visitant. At the bottom of the valley is a coppice of birch, willow, alder-leaved buckthorn, and bog

myrtle, divided by a track bordered by oaks and hawthorns. Honeysuckles, brambles, and reeds flourish among the trees. Peat has been removed over large areas, and the peat pools are now almost filled with a dense growth of bog-moss, sedge, cotton-grass, long-leaved sundew and water plants. One particular pool in a square half-mile of bog is one of the two Norfolk localities in which the bog orchis still maintains a precarious existence. Here I found the only known British specimen of the flower of the intermediate bladderwort. In July this common provides one of the most attractive floral feasts in the county. Primitive bog is partly water-covered and peaty pools are bordered by broad cushions of bog-moss ; ridges a few inches above the water, and all the bordering marsh are ablaze with the orange of the blossoming bog asphodel ; for hundreds of square yards it is impossible to walk without treading at every step on specimens of sundew, and the dainty foliage of the cranberry is dotted with berries, either ruddy or purple-mottled. Pools are carpeted with the delicate mosaic of the intertwining sprays of the intermediate bladderwort, and some areas are brilliant with heath—the pale waxen bells of the cross-leaved

or the deeper tinged of the bell. On the drier marsh one struggles with a dense growth of grass, and on the sandy slopes with woody stems of heather, or forests of waving bracken—a place where Nature revels in her floral wealth, and flowers bloom with the prodigality of inexhaustible riches. Despite the difficult nature of the bogs, there is compensation at almost any season of the year, from the period when wide patches are covered with pink and white bog-bean, to the clouds of silken cotton-grass glistening in the wind, deep purple patches of marsh cinquefoil, or green of moss and sedge, through which peep the purple spikes of the marsh orchis. There are areas where the three sundews and three bladderworts pursue their insect-catching avocations; others where the pale green rosettes of the butterwort almost cover any otherwise bare patch of ground; and where there is not much competition, the delicate bog pimpernel clothes the mossy tufts with thousands of tiny pink blossoms. Yet its treasures are rarely seen by man, save for a wandering cowherd or a casual botanist, and even the latter has to face conditions not always the most pleasant ere he can pluck its secrets from the recesses of this widespread bog.

Chalk is indisputably the backbone of both Norfolk and Suffolk. The red chalk, which, with the golden carstone, and the white chalk, provide such pleasing colour-contrasts in the Hunstanton cliffs, nowhere rises to the surface, and therefore does not affect the scenery. In southern Suffolk the middle and lower beds of chalk rise in a bold escarpment, but in Norfolk they have been planed down to a surface of sweeping undulations, sometimes grass-covered, almost bare of woods, and in cultivated areas consisting of fields of considerable extent, with low hedgerows. Lower chalk exposed in west Norfolk and between Thetford and Newmarket is without flint; the middle chalk of west and mid-Norfolk contains flint usually in tabular sheets; while the upper chalk, around Norwich and at Claydon and Bramford, along the banks of the Gipping, has flint in the shape of nodules in horizontal layers, and occasionally as paramoudras—an Anglo-Irish word meaning “sea pears,” first applied by Dr. Buckland in the *Geological Transactions* to vase-shaped or pear-shaped flints from 2 to 5 feet in height. Except in the western parts of both counties, the chalk is usually masked by sands, gravels and clays of later age, but there are

outcrops in various places, and the quantity of chalk in the boulder clay is also sufficient in many cases to attract calcicole plants.

Ringstead Downs and Massingham Heath furnish the best examples of chalk downland in Norfolk, the former being a miniature chalk combe, similar to those on the Downs of Southern England. The distribution of the chalk flora has been influenced by quarrying in various parts, and more particularly by ancient earthworks which are often made of chalk piled upon shallow superficial deposits. This is noticeable at Thetford Castle Hill, the Devil's Dykes between Weeting and Cranwich, and Caldecote and Narborough, the dyke on Ashill Common, the "Black Ditches" on Cavenham Heath, the *débris* of the prehistoric flint-mines at Grime's Graves, Weeting, and to a lesser degree in connection with many ancient boundary banks, of which there are hundreds of miles on the heathlands of north-west Suffolk and south-west Norfolk. On the chalk itself there is a noticeable paucity of trees. The beechwood association of the North and South Downs and the Weald is quite absent, nor is there any typical ashwood or scrub association. Although Professor A. Henry, F.L.S. points out

that "the effect of glaciation in sterilising the soil has left a great mark on the present distribution of trees in the British Isles," and concludes that the beech is only indigenous in the non-glaciated portion of England, the excavations at Grime's Graves, Weeting, in 1914, revealed the former presence of beech in south-west Norfolk in some abundance, associated with oak, Scotch pine, spruce and yew. On almost all the chalk areas of Norfolk and Suffolk the upper layer of soil is deficient in lime, so that side by side with the more deeply-rooted chalk-loving plants are shallow-rooted plants, which have a special preference for mole-hills and ant-hills, to which they are sometimes confined.

It is not improbable that some of the overgrown chalk pits date from pre-Roman times, while the great antiquity of others is testified by their enormous extent. The huge chalk and stone pit on Alderford Common and the size of the Gallow's Pit at Thetford are proof of the labours of several hundred years. In many cases these pits are the sole survivals of land held in common in pre-enclosure days, and as they often provide the only place where chalk, gravel, and sand can be obtained for parochial purposes, or by the

cottagers, it is desirable that public ownership should be maintained.

When the chalk in the western part of both counties was slightly tilted—probably in the Miocene period—it is possible that there were then chalk hills 1,000 feet in height, for at least this amount has been lost by denudation, but whether during the gradual upraising of the land or subsequently, there is no evidence to show. Extensive sheets of loose flints would be found on the surface, and were probably the source from which most of the gravels were derived.

Hard chalk, often known as “clunch,” has been extensively used as a building material, not only in walls for fields and gardens, but for farm out-buildings and cottages, and in at least one instance—that of St. Cuthbert’s, Thetford—for the pillars of the nave. Flint is one of the most common building materials in Norfolk and Suffolk. It was often used in conjunction with stone and brick for quoins and dressings, but the square tower of Beeston Regis Church is entirely of flint without any quoins, and the porch is paved with large rough flints polished by the tread of many generations of worshippers. In order to avoid the expense of quoining flint, rubble church

towers were constructed in a circular form, which gave rise to a local tradition that these were "wells before the Flood." Most of these are in Norfolk and Suffolk, only a small number having been erected in other counties. After about 1450 flints were squared or gauged, not only for church work, but also in town and country mansions, the chips sometimes being inserted in the mortar joints in the same way as the carstone previously mentioned. In one system the flint formed a dark background for a tracery of freestone; in the other a stone wall was divided into panels filled up with flint. When John Evelyn was conducted round Norwich in 1671 by Sir Thomas Browne he was much astonished at the "buildings of flint so exquisitely headed and squared," and was informed by Sir Thomas that "they had lost the art of squaring the flints in which they so much excelled, and of which the churches, best houses, and walls are built." Wonderful flintwork may still be seen in the Guildhall and in the Old Bridewell at Norwich, the Guildhall at King's Lynn, and the Halls at Hunstanton, Mannington and Elsing, as well as in hundreds of old farmhouses and cottages. Brandon is a town in which all the older houses are of flint.

FLATFORD BRIDGE, SUFFOLK

Near Constable's Mill on the Stour



Above the chalk a few beds are exposed in Suffolk which are either absent or far below the surface in Norfolk. Around Sudbury, north of Hadleigh and near Ipswich, there are exposures of the Thanet sands; the Reading beds appear at various places between Ipswich and Sudbury; while the London clay is found between the estuaries of the Stour and the Orwell, and along both sides of the Deben estuary.

An area of about ten square miles around Orford is occupied by the Coralline Crag, and the Red Crag in Suffolk and the Norwich Crag in Norfolk occupy a considerable portion of the eastern half of each county, the Suffolk portion being formerly known as the Sandland. From the base of the Red Crag came the phosphatic coprolites which at one time were commonly worked for grinding into artificial manure, after their commercial value had been pointed out by Professor Henslow. The Crag beds consist of pebbly gravel, sand and clay, the sand sometimes full of fossil shells. Where they appear on the surface they give rise to a dry sandy soil, and help to form some of the ridges along the valleys of the Wensum, Yare and Bure.

Most of the subsoil of Norfolk and Suffolk is

composed of glacial deposits, often so intermingled as to give rise to distinct types of vegetation even in the same field. The boulder clay also differs according to the district. Chalky boulder clay—which covers more than 5,000 square miles in the east of England—occurs in west and mid-Norfolk and south Suffolk, chalky-Kimeridgian boulder clay over most of Suffolk and south Norfolk, and North Sea drift over north and part of east Norfolk. In some places the drift is of enormous thickness, as at Brettenham Park, Suffolk, where 312 feet was recorded, and near Glemsford railway station in the valley of the Stour, where 477 feet of drift was passed through before reaching the chalk. It forms part of that great area of glacial drift which covers about 15,000 square miles of this country with a sufficient thickness to mask the solid land-forms, while another 20,000 square miles was glaciated and modified, but without losing the chief features of its rocky framework. About one-tenth of the whole country would vanish if these drifts were removed, as in such an area the solid rocks lie below sea-level. In those areas, such as High Suffolk, formerly known as the Woodland, where the clay is tolerably uniform,

the land is often in a high state of cultivation, with small fields, low hedges, and colour-washed cottages of "clay lump." Any distinction of scenery is lacking, though many of the village greens which form so charming a nucleus for the surrounding cottages are associated with this type of soil.

In this clay occur glaciated boulders of chalk, granite, greenstone, felstone, carboniferous limestone and other rocks, brought by glacial action from Scandinavia, Scotland, the north of England and Lincolnshire. The largest Norfolk boulder is that at Merton, near Watton. It is in a pit dug for marl but now generally full of water, which almost covers the boulder. It is of Neocomian sandstone, with a measurement of 12 feet by 5 feet on top, and a measurable depth of 5 feet. Local tradition has it that if this boulder were removed the waters would rush forth and "cover the whole earth." Smaller boulders are to be found in many towns and villages in Norfolk and Suffolk. Many of them have been removed from their original sites, and are now used to protect the sides of gateways and the corners of buildings from damage by traffic. The only churchyard specimens that I know are a large boulder at

Holme-next-the-Sea, and another known as the "Devil's Stone," at St. Mary's, Bungay, around which children formerly danced seven times on a certain day in the year, and then expected the devil to appear. "Herolf's Stone," in Harleston, was probably so named by some antiquary seeking a plausible definition for the name of the town, and "Stockton Stone" is sufficiently noteworthy to be indicated on the Ordnance Survey maps. Between Debenham and Brice's Farm is a boulder called "The Groaning Stone," which is said to groan at midnight, but I cannot find any witness who has heard it. Mr. Walter Rye mentions the "Witch's Stone" at Lowestoft, which goes down to the beach to bathe, *when* it hears midnight struck. There was at one time at Lopham a boulder on which there was said to be the clear impression of a cow's hoof, probably the cast of a fossil shell. Tradition says that there was a cow which no man could milk dry. At last a certain man said he would do it, and did, but with the last drop, the cow kicked out, left the impress of its hoof on the stone, and then fell dead. In the Sanctuary at Mannington Hall are some boulders called "Druid's Stones," though the idea that they were ever "reeking with the

blood of victims offered as human sacrifices " is improbable. Some years ago a large granite boulder projected from the sea bed between Cromer and Runton, and was known as " Black Meg."

Over the purer boulder clay areas such as those in High Suffolk, where the finest wheat in the kingdom is said to be grown, there is a monotony of landscape, in striking contrast to that where glacial loams, sands and gravels predominate. Much of this boulder clay was covered by forest until comparatively recent times. In Suffolk this district was known as the Woodland, and Mr. Claude Morley has pointed out that within five miles of a line drawn from Pakefield to Withersfield are no less than twenty of the thirty Suffolk villages bearing the suffix " field," which is derived from the " feld " or clearings made by felled timber. Sir Henry Spelman in the sixteenth century also divided Norfolk into the Champion, west of a line from Thetford to Burnham, and the Woodland to the east. Heaths, heath pastures, woodlands (often on ridges or on the slopes of tablelands where the soil is not worth cultivating) intermixed with arable land and pastures, diversify the scenery, and give both Norfolk and Suffolk many of their most attractive

features. To glacial action we owe the long wooded ridge between Cromer and Holt, which is considered by Mr. F. W. Harmer, F.G.S., to have been the terminal moraine of the great North Sea glacier; the bold ridge from Lakenheath to Mildenhall; and probably a considerable portion of the arterial drainage.

Plateau gravel often caps the hills, a result due to causes which may have begun to operate in Miocene and Pliocene times, when rivers began to erode their courses in the chalk. At the close of the glacial period, when part of the surface was clay and part sand or gravel, the rainfall would accumulate on the former or flow away to lower levels, while it would sink through the more porous sands and gravels to the impervious beds beneath. The post-glacial river channels were therefore on exposed clay, which was gradually eroded, leaving isolated hills with spurs capped by sand or gravel. Such a process may account for the little sandy hills along the north Norfolk coast, and less frequently found inland. One at Ringland so closely resembled a barrow that it was not until excavation was begun in 1919 that it was found to owe its preservation from denuding forces to a thick capping of gravel.

The main watershed runs from Hunstanton to Lopham, then south into Suffolk, west, south-west and finally north-west to the Cambridgeshire border. With the rivers and river valleys are associated many things that hold a permanent place in man's affections—bridges, mills, ferries, fords, locks and staunches, the Norfolk wherries and the black barges of the fenland streams. Of all the Suffolk rivers, only the Lark and the Little Ouse flow westwards, joining the Great Ouse and debouching into the Wash. The Stour is navigable as far as Sudbury and also flows by Long Melford and Clare. In its valley John Constable, the son of an East Bergholt miller, found many of the peaceful pastoral scenes which his art has immortalised. He himself said that "The beauty of the surrounding scenery, its gentle declivities, its luxuriant meadow flats sprinkled with flocks and herds, its well-cultivated uplands, its woods and rivers, with numerous scattered villages and churches, farms and picturesque cottages, all impart to this particular spot an amenity and elegance hardly anywhere else to be found." The Gipping rises north of Stowmarket, from which town it is navigable, and flows through Ipswich into the estuary, which is

thenceforward known as the River Orwell, and in turn unites with the wider estuary of the Stour north of Harwich. The next river northward is the Deben which flows by Wickham Market and Woodbridge, where it enters an estuary navigable to small vessels and fishing-boats. The Alde with its tributary the Ore, is remarkable for the fact that it formerly debouched at Thorpe north of Aldeburgh and now nearly reaches the sea at Aldeburgh, but is turned southward by a long shingle spit, past the decayed coast town of Orford, and enters the sea at Hollesley Bay, twelve miles from its original mouth. A small stream called the Minsmere flows past Yoxford and the Blyth passes several charming villages before it reaches the sea at Southwold Harbour. In a reminiscence of the Blyth valley in "The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft," George Gissing says :—"The stream ripples and glances over its brown bed, warmed with sunbeams ; by its bank the green flags wave and rustle, and all about the meadows shine in pure gold of buttercups. The hawthorn hedges are a mass of gleaming blossom, which scents the breeze. There above rises the heath, yellow-mantled with gorse, and beyond, if I walk for an hour or two, I shall come

OULTON BROAD, SUFFOLK

A fine sheet of water near Lowestoft, on the shores of which George Borrow
lived and wrote



out upon the sandy cliffs of Suffolk, and look over the northern sea."

The Little Ouse and Waveney rise on either side of a narrow causeway at South Lopham, the former entering the sea at Lynn and the latter at Yarmouth, where it unites with the Yare and the Bure. It is connected with Oulton Broad by a navigable channel called Oulton Dyke. The Yare rises at Shipdham, where it is known as the Blackwater, and the Wensum at West Rudham, where a powerful spring emerges in a meadow. Yare and Wensum unite below Norwich, and although there is evidence that until about 1800 the river was known as the Wensum as far as Breydon Water, it is now generally called the Yare, on which the corporation of Norwich has jurisdiction as far as Hardley Cross, where the Chet, which flows through Loddon, joins the main stream. The source of the Bure is at Melton Constable, and the most beautiful of the broads lie in its valley below Wroxham. Other broads are connected with two of its tributaries, the Ant, which comes from Antingham, and the Thurne, which rises near Horsey and Somerton. The tidal range of the Yare at Norwich twenty-nine miles from its mouth is 15 inches, and on

the Bure at Wroxham and the Waveney at Beccles, twenty-five miles from their outfall, about 14 inches. Two small streams in north Norfolk are noteworthy, one, the Glaven, for the beauty of its valley as it flows past Hempstead, Hunworth, Letheringsett, Bayfield and Glandford, and the other, the Stiffkey river, because along its banks are East Barsham Manor-house, the "Shoe House" at Houghton-in-the-Dale, Walsingham Abbey, and the two "Wishing Wells," the earthworks at Warham, the delightful village of Stiffkey, as well as some fine churches. The Great Ouse, which flows into the Wash below Lynn and is tidal as far as Denver Sluice, has as its tributaries the Lark in Suffolk, and the Little Ouse, Wissey and Nar in Norfolk, all streams with swiftly-flowing currents in their upper reaches, which are on the chalk slopes. The western-flowing Lark and Little Ouse may occupy valleys once drained by streams running eastwards. Perhaps the finest riverside walk in East Anglia is that along the Little Ouse between Thetford and Brandon.

There is not in East Anglia that variation in the colour of streams which is obtainable in districts where the soil is more diversified.

Perfectly pure stream water is transparent and colourless, features most noticeable in cuts where there is no current such as those in "Little Switzerland," Horstead, and St. Helen's Well, Santon, which merely seem to intensify the colours in their beds. The most vivid contrasts are furnished by the tidal sluices, particularly that at Denver, where on the seaward side the turbid flood is yellow, while on the landward side the Great Ouse is black with depth, sluggishness, and peat fragments from the fens. The same conditions are noticeable at the sluice between Cley and Blakeney, where the tidal water of Cley Harbour flows up on the one side and the clear waters of the Glaven on the other. The higher reaches of all the Norfolk and Suffolk rivers have the limpidity of waters mainly derived from the chalk. What colour there is is the faintest tinge of green, changeable and fugitive, a phase between turbid brown and limpid clearness. The middle reaches which pass through wooded landscapes are greenest in calm weather early in winter, when the decaying leaves have been digested by the autumn floods. In some of these floods the turbulence of the torrent scours the chalky beds of the rivers and for miles

the water has the appearance of *café-au-lait*. This is more frequently observed in the western streams—the Lark, Little Ouse, Wissey and Nar. Waters often seem coloured by reflections, particularly the blue of the sky, the tender greens of spring, the gold and bronze of autumn, and even the flaming crimson of a sunset. In passing through the marshy areas of their lower reaches, most streams scour a considerable quantity of mud and vegetable matter which remains in suspension, going down with the ebb and coming back with the flood. In the case of the Yare, the Waveney and even the Bure some of this silt ultimately finds a home on the wide mud-flats of Breydon.

Where these rivers cut through the overlying strata to the older beds, the valley slopes sometimes rise sharply to a considerable height. This gives much of its beauty to the Stour, the Deben, the Blyth, the Waveney, the Wensum (with its river-cliffs at Ringland and Morton), the Glaven, Stiffkey river and the Thet, particularly that great hollow in which lie Shadwell and Brettenham. Fine views of the river valley are obtainable from Mousehold and the Castle Hill at Norwich, and the prospect of the city from Kett's Hill was

NOONDAY ON THE STOUR, SUFFOLK

The river-valley in which John Constable found many of the scenes which his art has immortalised



likened by Sir Andrew Ramsay to that of Edinburgh from the Calton Hill.

Norfolk and Suffolk are situated in one of the driest areas in the British Isles, the average rainfall in Norfolk being 25·83 inches per annum, and in Suffolk slightly less. October is the wettest month of the year, and February the driest. Visitors from the south bless the glorious autumns and curse the inclement springs, when the north-easterly winds blow with considerable force. Writing of Norfolk 300 years ago Sir Henry Spelman said the air was "sharp and piercing, especially the Champion and neere the sea," while a little later Reyce said of Suffolk that "it is commonly esteemed that the air is as sweet and as healthful generally as in any other country whatsoever, but that part which extendeth itself towards the champaign is deemed to be the purest." The mean temperature of both counties is about 49 degrees.

CHAPTER II

BROADLAND

THE late Mr. Clement Reid, reasoning from the fact that the oldest of the submerged forests round the coast is 60 feet below tide-level, demonstrates that at one stage of the Pleistocene period the greater part of England stood at least 70 feet above its present level. This was at a time when the arctic species associated with the glacial epoch had already had time to die out, but the southern forms had not yet arrived. A succession of earth movements caused alternate growth of forest and submergence, but these movements ceased about 1600 B.C., and may not have begun before 3000 B.C. During this period of depression the whole of the area now occupied by the marshlands of the Waveney, Yare and Bure was probably a vast estuary, subject to tidal influences. When local earth-movements ceased and conditions became stabilised, several factors combined to cause a gradual silting-up of these valleys. These were the southward flow

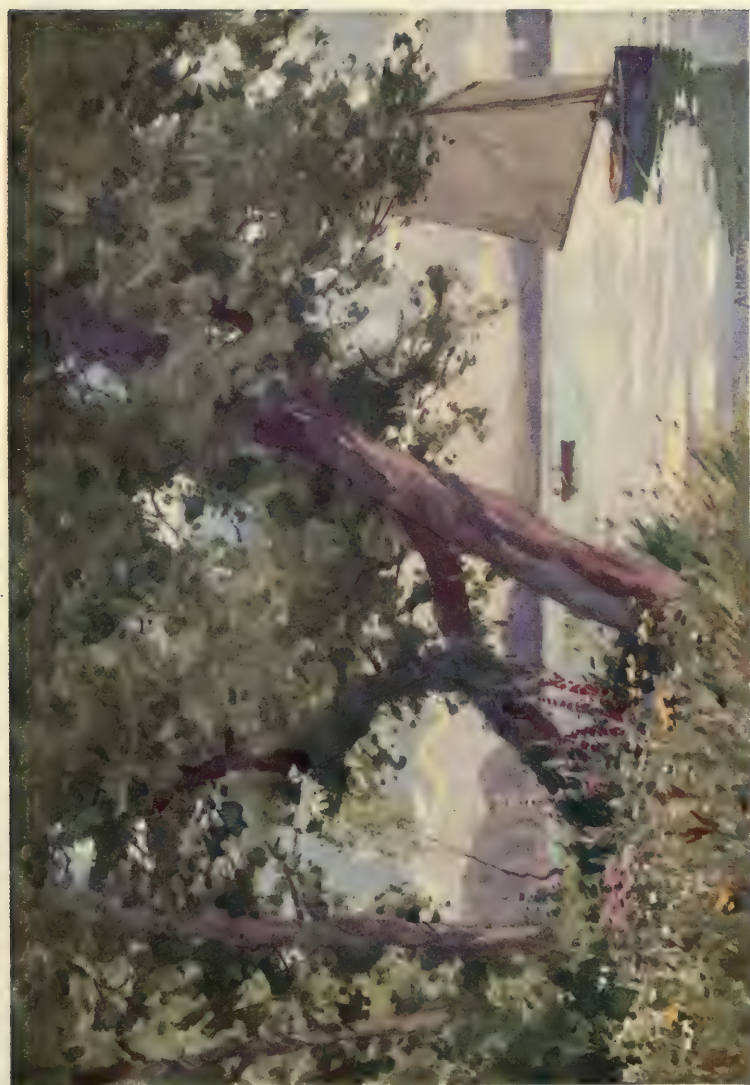
of the tide along the east coast ; the existence in the shore cliffs of strata yielding a large amount of detritus to tidal influences ; and the sluggish nature of the streams, which prevented them from sweeping away any considerable obstruction from their mouths. Owing to the combination of these conditions, the southern sweep of the tide gradually caused the formation of a spit of shingle and sand across the mouth of the estuary which then extended from Caister to Gorleston, ultimately causing the position of the mouth of the Yare to be shifted four miles, until the Gorleston cliffs prevented a further movement south, and dredging was resorted to in order to keep the mouth of the combined rivers clear.

The effect of this bar would be to cause a gradual silting up on the landward side. The backward creep of the alluvium would in time wholly or partly cut off some of the branches of the estuary which had been partly scoured out by tidal influences, and as their outlets became narrowed, these tributaries would form broads in the lateral valleys. To such causes the origin of Fritton Decoy, which is now only connected with the Waveney by a drainage ditch, and of the three broads of Ormesby, Rollesby and Filby, which are

only connected with the Bure by a narrow channel known as the Muck Fleet, may be attributed. This explanation, however, does not apply to the broads in the main river valleys, separated from the rivers by narrow belts of alluvium. Professor J. W. Gregory considers that those in the Bure valley originally formed part of one large sheet of water through which the river flowed, and that a delta would be formed at the junction of river and broad. The growth of the delta, through the centre of which ran the river, would naturally be greatest towards the middle, and a natural embankment would thus be formed on each side of the stream, beyond which there would be sheets of dead water—the broads. Most of the broads are in depressions in the clay; Wroxham, South Walsham and Surlingham in that of the Norwich Crag, and Ormesby, Martham and Horsey on that of the Contorted Drift. Mr. H. B. Woodward, F.G.S., considered that Wroxham and Hoveton were formed when the depression of the land allowed the waters to overflow areas previously excavated in the widening of the valleys and the scouring caused by tidal influences, and that Barton and perhaps Hickling were formed by the cutting of

FRITTON LAKE, SUFFOLK—A SUMMER MORNING

A large and lovely wood-engirdled lake, one mile east of St. Olave's Station



turf and were therefore more or less artificial. The formation of the sandbank at Yarmouth entirely changed the character of the area, Breydon being the last remains of the estuarine channel now almost in the final stage of silting up. This process is still apparent, and the broads are gradually diminishing both in expanse and depth, the latter according to the Rev. J. Gunn at the rate of 1 foot in twenty years.

The Broadland channels of the main rivers have been divided by Miss M. Pallis into three well-marked areas, the upper, where the soil is peat and to which all the broads belong; the middle, where the soil is a bluish unctuous ooze, but the rivers still run in separate valleys; and the lower, where the soil is a reddish loam, and the valleys have merged. Parts of the pasture-land are no higher than low-tide level, the peat being at a slightly higher level owing to the fact that it is distended with water like a sponge. The rivers themselves are above the general level of the marshes, and were embanked in the twelfth century, the wash-lands between the banks and the river being locally known as "rands." Between Norwich and Yarmouth the Yare has a fall of barely 2 inches, and the rivers are subject

to a tidal rise and fall to the junction with their higher reaches, though salinity is not ordinarily apparent in the Bure above Acle Bridge. In the area between Palling and Martham drained by the River Thurne salt is present in the ground water, due to infiltration of the sea, and the broads and ditches which cut into this level are brackish. Salt-pans are recorded in Domesday Book as having existed in the eleventh century at Cantley, Filby, Halvergate, Herringby, Stokesby and South Walsham, so that the tidal range was evidently greater before embanking became general and the estuary of the three rivers was more rigidly defined. In a map issued by Mr. Charles Silcock, the fact that with few exceptions the churches of the district mark the border of the ancient estuary is clearly demonstrated, and Mr. Silcock considers it probable that much of the material for building was conveyed to the sites by water. This, he holds, accounts for the curious position of some of the churches, which were erected, as in the case of Reedham, not necessarily near the population, but at the most convenient site for unloading the material.

The broads cover an area of more than 3,000

acres, of which Breydon occupies about a third, and with the river valleys of which they form a part, produce a type of scenery unique in Great Britain. Though Broadland is irremediably flat, and in many parts so utterly featureless that the drainage mills are the only objects that break the monotony of the landscape, yet Nature is generous in her compensations, and the atmospheric effects are so marvellous as to more than atone for the absence of scenic grandeur. Yet the fascination of the district is real; those who have once come under its spell return year by year to the rivers and broads, where a solitude almost primæval in its intensity may be found except for a month or two in the year. For sailing purposes the Waveney and Yare have many advantages, but the most varied and attractive scenery is found on the Bure between Acle Bridge and Coltishall, and on its tributaries, the Ant and Thurne. Most lovers of the broads have personal preferences, and in my opinion the Old Meadow Dike is the finest waterway, and Horsey the most beautiful broad. The banks of the former are a floral feast, and the channel is so narrow that one seems to be moving through an enchanted garden. Though the water is deep, it is so clear that it is possible to name the

species of submerged aquatic plants while passing over them.

Mile after mile of river and broad is bounded by tall reeds, or lines of pollard willows, with flat green pastures stretching as far as eye can reach, the endless sameness broken only by the brown sails of the wherries, the windmills that drain the marshes, the tower of a distant church on the bordering ridges, a few reed-thatched cottages, or an old-fashioned inn. Some points in Broadland provide extensive vistas. From a spot near Thurne mouth, the view along the Bure extends from Acle Bridge to Horning, and up the Thurne to Potter Heigham.

Year by year the windmills which control the drainage of the marshes become fewer in number, for as they fall into decay they are replaced by steam mills, which cannot be said to add to the beauties of the landscape. Though the windmill was introduced into this country about the time of the Crusades, it is doubtful whether any existing specimen is earlier than the sixteenth century. Most of them bear considerable external resemblance to those used for grinding corn, but others are simpler in structure and consist of four sails on a frame, and from their gaunt

appearance are called skeleton or butterfly mills. The tower pump-mills often date back to the early part of the eighteenth century ; Oby mill on the left bank of the Bure above Acle Bridge has the date 1753 in wrought iron figures which terminate the tie-rods, in accordance with the fashion introduced into this country by the Flemings. Faden's map of Norfolk (1790—4) shows only thirteen mills in the whole of the area between Acle, Reedham and Yarmouth. A windmill is sometimes struck by lightning, and occasionally when the vanes on the latticed sails have been closed and a high wind has unexpectedly arisen the friction of the machinery running at high speed will cause ignition. In December, 1919, the old grey mill at the head of Thurne Dike which drained an area of about 200 acres, collapsed from wind-pressure, owing to the wind suddenly veering round and taking the sails in the rear, lifting the whole of the dome, sails, and a good deal of the machinery over on to the marsh. The method of drainage is simple. A large water-wheel set in motion by the mill-sails scoops the water from a ditch draining the marshes and throws it into a reservoir between the mill and the river. This is divided from the river

by a sluice-gate which is opened at the fall of the tide to let out the accumulated water. A derelict black pumping-mill east of Kendal Dike contains the first turbine erected in England. It was the invention of a Stalham man who, however, did not patent it, and others made use of the fruit of his labours.

The wherry which is now the characteristic sailing craft of Broadland has entirely supplanted the keel, though the "Keel and Wherry" inn at Norwich reminds us of the time when both were equally prominent. Wherries are long, low boats, somewhat on the lines of a Viking's ship, probably Dutch in origin, influenced by native practicability, which carry an enormous brown sail, draw very little water, and when "light," travel at a great speed. Some of them are big boats, up to 80 tons, the trading wherries with a cabin in the stern, while the pleasure wherries—the most comfortable boats for Broadland cruising—are all cabin. When two guns were brought from Lincolnshire to Norfolk in 1644 one of the payments was 4*s.* 6*d.* "to the wherriman from Yarmouth to Norwich." Yet keels seem to have been more popular until early in the nineteenth century, when these boats, which carried a great square

sail on a mast stepped nearly amidships, were superseded by the wherries with mast almost in the bow. What is reputed to be one of the oldest Norfolk wherries lies derelict and sunken in one of the bights of Heigham Sounds. Certainly there were wherries in 1673, when one was referred to in connection with Burgh water-frolic. In 1706 they were used in beating the bounds of Yarmouth, and in 1713 twenty people were drowned on Breydon Water through one turning turtle. Those on the Yare usually have "black snouts" and those on the Waveney white, and the orthodox vane was for a couple of generations a Welsh girl, said by Mr. R. H. Teasdel to have been introduced from a wherry built about 1856 and called the *Jenny Morgan* after a well-known song. One of the traditional ornamentations of the North River (Bure) wherries was a "bunch of pears" painted centrally about the sheave pin on the masthead halyard block.

When the wherry-men formed a more or less distinct craft, the regular salutation from one to the other was "There ye go," answered by "There ye sail," "There ye lay," "There ye set," or "There ye shove," as the case might be. On the Bure a common greeting was "There you

blow, my love," and the correct reply was "Here we go, master."

Owing to gradual physical changes in Broadland, and to the increasing popularity of the district as a pleasure resort, its bird-life has changed somewhat during the past half-century. Mr. J. H. Gurney, F.Z.S., has pointed out that though we have recovered the bittern, cormorant and curlew as breeding species, the kite, peregrine, raven, great bustard, avocet, black-tailed godwit and black tern which nested in the county until early in the nineteenth century have apparently been lost irretrievably, and to this list might almost certainly be added the buzzard, and perhaps Baillon's crake, wood sandpiper, wigeon and ferruginous duck. One of the romances of bird-life in Norfolk is furnished by the return of the bittern to Broadland as a breeding species. Until the drainage of large areas and the silting up of others the bittern was a common species, and according to Dr. A. Jessopp was known as the "bog bumper." Lubbock, in his "Fauna of Norfolk," mentions that he had killed eleven bitterns on his shooting excursions, and also records that a fen shooting party at Downham killed from twenty to thirty in a morning. In



the days when fen drainage was more a name than a fact they were so plentiful in the Hockwold and Feltwell fens as to be sold for 1s. each. The last eggs of the indigenous race appear to have been taken at Upton in 1868, but in 1886 the peculiar booming was again heard near Sutton Broad, and in August a young bird with down still adhering to some of its feathers was sent from Ludham to a Norwich bird stuffer. It again appeared as a nesting species at Sutton Broad in 1911, and though from then until 1917 no nests were found there is no reason to doubt that it nested regularly and at least fifteen were shot in the county between midsummer 1917 and midsummer 1918. The bittern is now sparingly distributed in East Norfolk, and its marvellous "boom" is one of the most astonishing Broadland sounds during the nesting season.

One of the most beautiful of the Broadland birds is the bearded titmouse, a small colony of which still persists, although it is possible to be a frequent visitor to the waterways without either seeing one or hearing its metallic call-note. Nevertheless, at the right time and place these agile birds—the "reed pheasants" of the natives—may be seen running up the reeds, almost like

a mouse, or with dipping flight crossing one of the little bays on the margin of certain broads. Though Sir Thomas Browne did not mention the bird in his natural history notes, he certainly sent a drawing of it to Ray who, in his "Collection of English Words not Generally Used" (1674), mentions it as a "little bird of a tawny colour on the back and a blew head, yellow bill, black legs, shot in an osiar yard, called by Sir Tho. for distinction sake *silerella*." The male, with its light fawn back, light rose breast, orange red belly, and conical tuft of velvety black feathers beneath each eye, is a distinctly handsome bird.

Another striking bird, which even a day's trip on the Bure, Thurne or associated broads will usually disclose, is the great crested grebe, which is apparently increasing in numbers. Its remarkable diving powers are frequently demonstrated. The heron, or "harnser," is conspicuous from its size, whether slowly winging its way to or from the heronry, or standing thigh deep in the water, waiting patiently for fish. Coot are very abundant on some of the broads, notably Hickling, and moorhens in the fringe of vegetation along most of the streams.

Vegetation in and on and around the broads

presents many features almost peculiar to the district. The purely aquatic area is gradually being restricted by the growth of reeds round the edge of the broads, which causes the soil to consolidate, forming fen which by the reduction of the water-level is converted into good pasture. Land now in cultivation was in the seventeenth century mowing marsh. Duckweed, bladderwort, and frogbit are the chief free-floating plants in the rivers, broads and ditches, with water crow-foot, water violet, water soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*), water thyme and pondweed as submerged plants. Reed-beds, sometimes of vast extent, form a barrier between the open water of the broads on the one hand and the fen on the other. Many species find the fen a suitable habitat. In addition to those not uncommonly found in other areas are the milk parsley (*Peucedanum palustre*), intermediate bladderwort (*Utricularia intermedia*), and two-leaved liparis (*Liparis Loesellii*). The milk parsley is the food of the larva of the swallow-tail butterfly, which in favourable seasons is still common in a restricted area. *Naias marina* occurs in certain of the broads where there are saline influences, and this is its only known station in England. This also applies to *Carex trinervis*,

which has only been recorded from Ormesby. The marsh pea (*Lathyrus palustris*), *Senecio palustris*, *Sonchus palustris*, *Carex paradoxa* and *Lychnothamnus stelliger* also have their chief British strongholds in Broadland.

There is a beautiful plant found floating on rivers, broads and ditches, known to botanists as *Azolla filiculoides*, but sometimes called the water fern. Its home is the western part of America from Chili to California. It was first noted in Norfolk by Mr. F. H. Barclay, who found it in a ditch the Woodbastwick side of Horning Ferry in 1892. It was confined to this spot and to a pond near Woodbastwick Old Hall until the flood of 1912, when the flood waters carried spores and mature plants down the Bure valley, and it has since been noted in most of the broads and streams associated with that river. At the present time its stronghold appears to be between the River Bure and the railway, on each side of the Acle New Road, where it is to be found in great abundance. It also flourishes in ditches at Wroxham, a pond at Ludham, Womack, Ranworth, South Walsham and other broads. The mature plant measures about two inches in length and one in width, with dark-coloured unbranched

roots descending from the stem at frequent intervals. The prevailing colour is light green, with a good deal of pink on the ventral leaf segments, but in autumn the colour changes to brick red, the green reasserting itself in June. A ditch in autumn or winter entirely covered with this brick-red vegetation is one of the most remarkable sights of East Norfolk. It is curious to note that while the plant has spread both up and down the Bure valley, it is absent from its original habitat at Woodbastwick.

For the greater part of the year there is little traffic on the rivers and broads, and in some of the villages in and around Broadland the occurrence of a stranger is an event worthy of note, but during the holiday months visitors on yachts and pleasure wherries and rowing boats penetrate to most of the accessible spots of the district, which with the exception of Yarmouth is better known to visitors than any other part of the county.

CHAPTER III

BRECKLAND

THAT area of south-west Norfolk and north-west Suffolk—anciently called the Fielding—which extends from Narborough on the north to Bury St. Edmund's and Mildenhall on the south, from Eccles and Knettishall on the east to Newmarket and Hockwold on the west, covers an area of about 400 square miles, and in many respects is more individual in its characteristics than Broadland. I first described it as Breckland in 1895, and the name has been adopted by various writers. The designation is derived from the "brecks" or portions of heaths which have been broken up and cultivated, and may originally have been derived from the old Norse word "brecka," meaning the slope of a hill. Thomas Tusser, who lived at West Dereham, in his "Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry" (1580) wrote :—

" Saint Michel doth bid thee amend the marsh wall,
The breck and the crab-hole, the foreland and all."

Here it appears to mean breach, and the first use of it in the modern sense therefore seems to be in Ray's "Collection of English Words not Generally Used" (1674). He there describes a "breck" as "land ploughed the first year after it has lain fallow." In an advertisement in the *Norwich Mercury* for March 24th, 1733, Rushford College Farm is described as having "a Sheep Walk for 1,000 Ewes and upwards; and sufficient Quantity of Pasture and Meadow Ground enclosed, with five Brecks or Shifts of Arable Land, besides enclosed Lands, and Clay or Fatt Marle in divers Parts thereof." A "breck" here evidently means an unenclosed arable field, large and sandy, from the nature of the district. "A Provincial Glossary" (1787), by Francis Goose, F.S.A., gives "Break. A break is land that has lain long fallow or in sheep-walks, and is so called the first year after it has been plowed or broken up. Norf." At the present time the word "breck" seems to be applied to large open fields of light land, often too big for farming in one shift, and sometimes 200 acres in extent, but in the heathy areas it is generally applied to a tract of heath which has at some time been broken up by the plough but is gradually reverting to its primitive

state. Outside Breckland (where it is in common use, almost every parish having "brecks"—and some a considerable number—within its borders), the term still survives in a few places, probably indicating portions of heathland originally cultivated after the passing of an Enclosure Act.

Almost all the district is covered by a remarkable pall of sand. In the fen bordering parishes there are frequently only a few inches of sand above the chalk, and there seems a tendency for the sand to thicken eastwards. It was probably caused by the leaching of the very sandy, chalky boulder clay by the flood-waters of the retreating glaciers. With a loose soil in a comparatively treeless country there would tend to be further decalcification of the clay, and its distribution would also be affected by the wind, much of the present depth of sand in some areas being undoubtedly blown there.

Certain plants and insects and one species of bird (the ringed plover) usually associated with the sea coast are found on the sands of Breckland, and I am one of those who in the past considered that these were survivals of the period when the fen-basin was occupied by sea, and the valleys of the Lark, Little Ouse, Wissey and Nar formed

Ants, English, described by John G. Rehn, 1888. The ants of the genus *Formica* are the most common of the Hymenoptera. They are found in all parts of the world, and are especially numerous in the temperate zone. They are found in all parts of the world, and are especially numerous in the temperate zone. They are found in all parts of the world, and are especially numerous in the temperate zone.

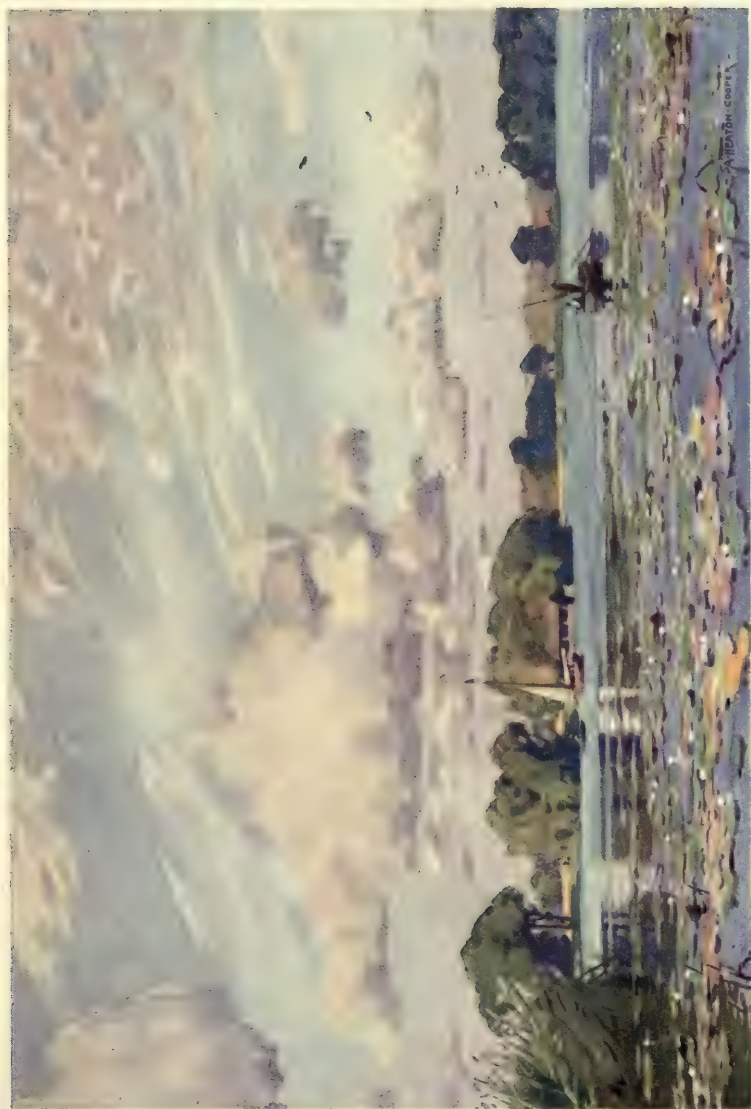
Ants are found in all parts of the world, and are especially numerous in the temperate zone. They are found in all parts of the world, and are especially numerous in the temperate zone. They are found in all parts of the world, and are especially numerous in the temperate zone.

BARTON BROAD, NORFOLK

One of the prettiest of the Broads, with an area of 270 acres—on the course of the River Ant

Barton Broad is one of the most beautiful of the Broads. It is situated on the course of the River Ant, and is one of the most beautiful of the Broads. It is situated on the course of the River Ant, and is one of the most beautiful of the Broads. It is situated on the course of the River Ant, and is one of the most beautiful of the Broads.

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maritime creeks. Since additional facts have come to light, on a reconsideration of the evidence, I think that the sand itself is the chief factor. Sand-sedge (*Carex arenaria*), locally known as "net-rein," is abundant on many of the heaths, and appears to be spreading at the expense of the heather which is more palatable to rabbits, and therefore suffers from their attacks. It also occurs inland on the lower greensand at Congham, Leziate, Grimston, Castle Rising and Roydon, and (as I am informed by Mr. C. E. Salmon, F.L.S.) in the Frensham Ponds district, near Farnham, Surrey. Three grasses otherwise associated with the flora of the sand-dunes also occur in Breckland, but it is evident that sand and not sea is the cause of their perpetuation in these inland regions.

Within the British Isles a number of plants are confined or nearly confined to Breckland, while a few now rare in, or absent from, this particular area, are restricted to East Anglia, and their habitat supports the idea that they were originally associated with this district, in which they have been exterminated, but still persist in favourable environment. In Breckland there is, even now, the nearest approach to steppe conditions to be

found in the British Isles, and it is therefore reasonable to assume that the steppe flora which followed the glacial flora would persist longer in this area than in others. Though the excavations at Grime's Graves, Weeting, in 1914, proved that at the time they were sunk by the prehistoric miners there was woodland around, yet the evidence is almost conclusive that since the historic period most of the district was practically treeless until the middle of the eighteenth century. Wherever scrub was prevented from establishing itself by the poverty of the soil, composed of sand and associated with a low rainfall, the steppe flora would tend to persist. From an analysis I made of the distribution of nineteen species of plants which seem to be survivals of the steppe flora, it is apparent that in Suffolk the conditions have remained stable to a greater degree than in Norfolk. In the southern county the chief centres of this remarkable flora are (in the order named) Mildenhall, Icklingham, Lakenheath and Bury St. Edmund's, and in the northern county Thetford, Croxton, Rushford and Narborough. Five moths and a beetle are confined to the brecks, though Mr. Claude Morley, F.E.S., says, "It is not so much the hope of turning up insects which

are found nowhere else that attracts the entomologist to this district, as the unusual number of generally rare kinds to be met with within a small area." It seems probable that at least in some cases they may originally have been associated with steppe conditions and plants.

Breckland forms by far the largest heathland area in East Anglia and the largest district so sparsely inhabited between the New Forest in one direction and the Pennines in the other. Although the highest point in the Norfolk portion is 189 feet at Merton, and in the Suffolk portion 183 feet at Culford, the long slopes rising from the valleys make the apparent altitude greater than the real, and extensive views are obtainable.

Domesday Book shows that at the Survey the neighbourhood of Hockwold, Feltwell and Methwold was remarkable for the number of hives of bees kept there. Hockwold and Feltwell each had seventeen, while Methwold with twenty-seven had more than any other place in Norfolk, facts not improbably due to the quantity of heather near by. On the upland plains there were also herds of wild horses, 220 at Great Hockham and sixty-three at Tottington having been recorded in the time of Edward the Confessor,

a total reduced to fifteen when the Conqueror's Survey was made. There was woodland at various places in the eastern part of Breckland, Merton alone providing pannage for 240 hogs. During the next three or four centuries most of the local deeds contain references to "brueria," that is, unproductive ground covered with heather and gorse. In 1283 no wheat was grown in the Suffolk parishes of Barnham, Euston, Rushford (now in Norfolk), West Stow and Wordwell, and of all the parishes in the Hundred of Blackbourne Barnham was the only one that returned a larger stock of rye than of other cereals. Rye, barley and oats were then grown in every parish in the Hundred. It is also instructive to note that the number of owners on the tax lists in 1283 was about 1,380 and in 1908 was only 519. To take another example, in 1272 there were in the Suffolk part of Rushford at least fifteen farmers of from fifteen to forty acres of arable land with rights of sheep-feeding extending over 500 or 600 acres. It was then all occupied by small holders; to-day it forms a small corner of an estate covering some eighteen square miles.

Early in the seventeenth century this district became a favourite resort of King James I. for

hunting and hawking, and in 1605 some notice appears to have been issued forbidding interference with game in the neighbourhood, for Lord Cranborne (in a letter to Sir Thomas Lake) thought malicious people might make bad use of it, "as tho. he claimed all for his own." Lord Cranborne, however, wonders "that any churl should kill anything that might afford his majesty his only recreation." This notice appears to have been somewhat ineffective, for in 1607 instructions were sent to Sir Nicholas Bacon, Sir W. Walgrave and Sir Robert Drury to take measures for the preservation of the King's game in the parts of Norfolk and Suffolk within twelve miles of Thetford, offenders to be brought before the King or the Privy Council. Three years later the Duke of Wurtemberg came to Thetford with the King, and they "coursed the hare, flew a hawk, and caught dotterels," and watched trained cormorants catch fish in the river. In 1611 Thomas Cockayne was appointed for life keeper of the game on the rivers at Thetford, and at Royston, and in 1614 John Coward and his son were appointed keepers of the stags and hawks about Thetford. A warrant was issued to Sir Thomas Germaine in 1626 to preserve

King Charles I.'s game within five miles of Thetford, and on February 17th, 1636, Sir Lionel Tollemache was ordered to preserve the king's game of "hare, pheasant, partridge, and other wild fowl," in Thetford and Ipswich, and within twelve miles thereof. After this there is no evidence that Thetford was used as a hunting centre by royalty. For pheasants we must suppose that there was woodland of some kind, and trees in Fakenham Wood and at Shadwell and Merton probably furnish evidence of ancient forests within the area known as Breckland.

Yet that most of this was then open country is proved by various witnesses. In Camden's "Britannia" (1586) Norfolk is described as "almost all champion," and the soil in the west as "poor, lean and sandy." William Kemp, who danced from London to Norwich in 1599, said of the road between Thetford and Bury, "all this way, or the most of it, was over a heath." In the account of Norfolk which Sir Henry Spelman wrote for John Speed in 1627 he said: "The Champion aboundeth with Corne, Sheepe and Conies, and herein the barren heaths (as the providence of our Ancestors hath of old disposed them) are very profitable. For on them princi-

pally lie our Fould courses . . . These Heaths by the compasture of the sheep (which we call Tathe) are made so rich with corne, that when they fall to be sowne, they commonly match the fruitfullest grounds in other countries, and laid againe doe long after yield a sweeter and more plentiful seede for sheep, so that each of them maintains the other, and are the chiefest wealth of our Countrey."

Writing about 1662 Sir Thomas Browne referred to this as the "Champion and feildie part," mentioning the occurrence on the heaths of the district of cranes, great bustards, sheld-duck, dotterel, plovers "green and grey, in great plentie about Thetford and many other heaths," and stone curlews. In 1668 there was a great sandstorm at Downham, the sand travelling five miles from Lakenheath Warren, almost overwhelming the village, and for a time blocking up some three miles of the course of the Little Ouse. Downham consequently obtained the prefix of Sandy, now corrupted to Santon. John Evelyn visited Euston in 1671 as the guest of Lord Arlington, and described the soil as "drie, barren, and miserably sandy, which flies in drifts as the wind sets." In 1677 he went to see "the Travel-

ling Sands about ten miles wide of Euston, that have so damag'd the county, rousing from place to place, and like the Sands in ye Deserts of Lybia, quite overwhelm'd some gentlemen's whole estates." The map in Ogilby's "Britannia" (1675) shows "Sheep Downs" between Thetford and Brandon, "open way" between Thetford and West Tofts, and "warren" and "heath" between Thetford and Barton Mills. Blomefield, the Norfolk topographer, describes south-west Norfolk as "Filand," that is "field land," which he explains is a tract of unenclosed arable land. Kirby in the "Suffolk Traveller" (1757), denominates the district the "Fielding Part" which contained all the Hundred of Lackford, and parts of Blackbourne, and says "most of it is in sheepwalks, yet affords good corn in many places." He frequently refers to "champaign lands" in the vicinity of Thetford.

It seems certain that in the middle of the eighteenth century the amount of arable land was small, was fallow for six months of the year, and that the "tracks" which for the most part served as roads, were unbounded by hedges, and often by banks.

In the open country the roads were somewhat

uncertain in their course, and of the eight now leading out of Thetford only those to Croxton and Mundford were the generally recognised routes 500 years ago. In all other cases the roads most used in travelling were then different, and direct roads to many villages, such as Lakenheath and West Tofts, have fallen into disuse.

Most of Breckland was then a treeless waste. It is obvious that travelling under such circumstances was beset with difficulties. Some evidence of the inconveniences is furnished by the "Memoirs of a Royal Chaplain." On September 19th, 1735, Charles Kidman, maternal uncle of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Kerrich, rector of Dersingham, drove from that place to Banham. He afterwards wrote :—" At half an hour after 4 we proceeded in our journey from thence (Watton) taking a guide to Shropham. Then we took directions, but failed in observing them and wandered upon Snetterton Heath for an hour or two, and then went to Wilby instead of Eccles, where we were at a great loss where we were, and continued so till Harry took out one of ye horses in ye quest of some house, who after half an hour lighted upon Mr. Hare's, who sent his man with a Lanthorn and Horse to direct us

hither." In August, 1754, Dr. Kerrich left Dersingham on a visit to Cambridge, going by way of Swaffham and Newmarket. He had to leave Swaffham at 5 a.m. on account of crossing "the horrible Brandon sands" in the cool of the day, to avoid distressing the horses.

Equally unappreciative was Mr. Wm. Gilpin, M.A., who had an interesting tour in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, in 1769. Describing the way between Mildenhall and Brandon he said :—"Nothing was to be seen on either side but sand and scattered gravel without the least vegetation; a mere African desert. In some places this sandy waste occupied the whole scope of the eye; in other places, at a distance we could see a skirting of green with a few straggling bushes which, being surrounded by sand, appear'd like a stretch of low land shooting into the sea. The whole country indeed had the appearance of a beaten sea-coast; but without the beauties which adorn that species of landscape. In many places we saw the sand even driven into ridges; and the road totally covered; which indeed was everywhere so deep and heavy, that four horses which we were obliged to take could scarce in the slowest pace drag us through it.

It was a little surprising to find such a piece of absolute desert almost in the heart of England." Writing of the road north of Brandon on the way to Swaffham he said that it "led at first through an intermixture of sand and down, here and there varied with a few trees, but on the whole very unpleasing and very unpicturesque."

These "unpleasing" and "unpicturesque" heaths were a favourite resort of highwaymen. It is recorded that in 1418 "The Parson of Wrotham in Norffolke, which had haunted Newe Market heath, and there robbed and spoyled many, was with his concubine brought to Newgate of London, where he died." It is quite possible that he learnt his malpractices in the immediate vicinity of his charge. Then there was Augustus Briggs, a neighbour of Sir Thomas Browne, whose name survives in Brigg Street, Norwich. He was returned to the Parliament of 1669, and started to ride to London unarmed, but "while crossing the dreary heath near Thetford" he was set upon by highwaymen and robbed, and learning wisdom by experience, he armed himself like a brigand, from the shops at Thetford, and doubtless struck terror to the hearts of peaceable men in his further progress. There was also

Bryant Lewis, murdered in 1698, whose tragical epitaph is in St. George's Colegate Church, Norwich, while William Coe, of Mildenhall, recorded in his diary in 1724 that his sister and daughter were "persued" near Wangford "by a foot padd & were forced to gallop almost to Eriswell to escape." About 1800 a Mr. Mottram, of Gurney's Bank, was conveying a large sum of money from Norwich to London and on Thetford Heath was twice threatened by a highwayman, who then "tried a third time to overawe the occupants of the coach, when a gleam of light was glinted from the bright metal in his hand and he was fired at and killed. On arriving at Thetford the encounter was reported, and on search being made and his body found, it was discovered that his only weapon was a brass candlestick, and with this make-believe pistol he had, acting in collusion with the driver, on previous occasions robbed the coach."

A number of witnesses give evidence as to the nature of the country at the end of the eighteenth century. Mr. Arthur Young, writing in 1804, said that from Thetford and Brandon to Swaffham he went "through a tract which deserves to be called a desert." Kent, in his "General View

of the Agriculture of Norfolk " (1796), says that the Hundreds of Shropham, Guilteross, Wayland, South Greenhoe, and Grimshoe, " consist of a light sand, so light indeed in Grimshoe Hundred that it frequently drifts in the wind and is bare of vegetation," and in 1797, Mr. William Kirby, M.A., F.R.S., the entomologist, said, " The country here affords few or no objects to relieve the mind from the tedium which its bleakness and sterility produce upon it. It may be denominated an ocean of sand producing little besides nettles and brakes, with here and there an islet of firs." Late in the eighteenth century the plantations through which the road runs to make the Elveden " gaps " were planted, and were said to be the earliest Scotch pines in the district. The third Duke of Grafton (1735—1811) had a great aversion to the broad ditches with their honeycombed banks, and used to call them " Suffolk graves," and the sixth Earl of Albemarle, who records this in " Fifty Years of My Life " (1876), adds that " the whole country is a mere rabbit warren, and still goes by the name of the ' holey land.' " About the same period we have Robert Bloomfield's references in " Barnham Water " (1802), to " the bleak, unwooded scene," " the barren

fields," and the "slope of burning sand." Britton's "Description of the County of Norfolk" (1819), mentions the "great expanse of heath and unenclosed land, stript of every timber tree." In 1820 there were no trees between Thetford and Elveden, and Thetford and Brandon, and about this time there was a sandstorm of such severity that the particles broke over 100 panes of glass in a coach-builder's establishment on London Road, Thetford. Before proper roads were made on these wastes there was real danger in trying to follow the tracks under certain weather conditions. Several lives have been lost owing to snow rendering landmarks unfamiliar, and necessitating a night's exposure on the wilds. Writing in his diary on March 23rd, 1837, Mr. J. D. Salmon, F.L.S., of Thetford, said, "Heavy fall of snow. A very bad journey from Lakenheath in ye evening. Could not see my way, there being no tracks. Fortunately I did not get off the road."

As a result of the passing of local Enclosure Acts in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, many portions of ancient heath were broken up and became "brecks." In the century or so that has since elapsed, there have been

many changes in their appearance. Some have been sub-divided and fenced, and now appear as ordinary enclosed fields on light land farms ; others have remained unfenced, but are still cultivated ; while a considerable number which were first broken up when the high price of corn made it profitable to the farmer, have long since been allowed to revert to their primitive barrenness, and are now areas on which stones or bents are the most prominent objects according to the time that has elapsed since they were last cultivated.

In the middle of the eighteenth century unenclosed land extended almost unbrokenly from Attleborough to Mildenhall, and from Watton to Bury St. Edmund's. Roads were few, but tracks were innumerable, branching off one from the other and pursuing their erratic courses, sometimes to a goal, sometimes not. With the exception of some islets of Scotch pines most of the heathy part of the district was a treeless waste, beloved by the great bustard and the stone curlew. Since about 1840 trees have been planted in enormous numbers, sometimes as fir "belts" which are so characteristic a feature of the scenery, often as plantations of Scotch pines,

larch, spruce, and to a less extent of silver birch, beech, elm and oak. Hedges are infrequent and sometimes consist of Scotch pines or spruce fir, a feature of the district that is almost unique. These hedges are made of ordinary trees kept stunted by constant trimming, and many of the lines of fir trees now bordering plantations were originally hedges, but have ceased to be trimmed. The estates have tended to become bigger and bigger and the whole area of Breckland is now owned by a comparatively few people. One estate covers roughly thirty-four square miles of country, another twenty, and a third eighteen. Within the past ten years many miles of roadway previously open to the fields have been fenced, and the district does not in consequence appear so open as formerly. Nevertheless, Breckland is still the wildest district in Norfolk or Suffolk. Writing in 1872, Mr. S. J. B. Skertchly said : " From Thetford to the Fens, so barren is the land that one is often reminded of the deserts of Africa, rather than of English scenery. Hardly a drop of surface water is to be found, and for miles there is neither ditch, pond, nor spring."

In Stevenson's " Birds of Norfolk," Professor Alfred Newton, F.R.S., said :—" The effect of



...the windmills of the Thurne, Norfolk, are used for drainage purposes. The windmills are used to pump water out of the low-lying areas of the Thurne, which is a typical scene in Broadland. The windmills are used to pump water out of the low-lying areas of the Thurne, which is a typical scene in Broadland. The windmills are used to pump water out of the low-lying areas of the Thurne, which is a typical scene in Broadland.

WINDMILLS ON THE THURNE, NORFOLK

A typical scene in Broadland, where the windmills are used for drainage purposes

The windmills of the Thurne, Norfolk, are used for drainage purposes. The windmills are used to pump water out of the low-lying areas of the Thurne, which is a typical scene in Broadland. The windmills are used to pump water out of the low-lying areas of the Thurne, which is a typical scene in Broadland. The windmills are used to pump water out of the low-lying areas of the Thurne, which is a typical scene in Broadland.



high winds after dry weather in this district is not easily described. The whole air is filled with sand till it resembles a London fog." Real sandstorms are now chiefly confined to Lakenheath and Wangford Warrens and parts of the heathland near Icklingham, but in high winds sand is blown from the surface of the fields quite across the roads, sometimes forming drifts a foot or two deep. On the big open fields millions of tiny particles of sand are carried along, making a distinctly audible musical tinkle as they strike each other. By a process of selection the tiniest particles are carried furthest, and down the short slope of a boundary bank form cascades of purest golden sand. Every depression in the soil is brought into strong relief, and where the sand is exposed to the force of the wind it is rippled like the wave-ripples on some peaceful seashore. At Santon, in June, 1918, the wind blew bushels of young turnips out of the ground and practically ruined the crop.

Many of its ancient charms Breckland still retains. The rainfall is small and is quickly absorbed by the porous soil. The air is free from any taint, and has the tonic properties of that of the mountains, the predominant winds blowing across

leagues of fen and heather and bracken-clad heath. Throughout the summer the fallow lands furnish such feasts of colour as can hardly be seen elsewhere in England. The gorgeousness of the varying blooms is wonderful. A not infrequent sight is a big field of orange kidney vetch, with splashes of bluish-purple viper's bugloss and ruddy-purple nodding thistle, the delicate green of the Canadian fleabane, the shimmer of silky hair-grass, and a mat of purple, pink and white basil thyme, with the occasional scarlet of a poppy. Here there is no stint of colour or perfume, both running over with a prodigality not often noticed except on the "breck" sands. One is rarely away from the scent of the pine-woods, the pungent odour of the bracken, the smell of lady's bedstraw or of many acres of blossoming kidney vetch.

Despite the fact that Breckland is indubitably at its best in autumn, when the great wastes of feathery bracken are at the height of their beauty, and the purple heather covers mile upon mile of heathland with a gorgeous cloak, yet it is not without attractions in spring. Then the tender green of the larch and the delicate sheen of the birch contrast brilliantly with the funereal aspect

of the Scotch pines in the boundary belts, while in some of the mixed plantations it seems possible to detect almost every shade of green. Compared with the heavy land areas, with their primrose-covered banks and cowslip-covered pastures, the district is almost flowerless in spring, save for sheets of the tiny whitlow grass, and occasional patches of lesser celandine or of purple ground ivy. Later, some of the typical flowers of the brecks may be seen in the utmost profusion in suitable localities. The greenish spikes of the Spanish catchfly are almost as thick as a hay crop on some heaths, and the dainty pink blossoms of the conical catchfly cause a feeling of surprise that anything so delicate should flourish on such an arid waste. The flowers of the sickle medick, which range in colour from bright yellow to deep purple with a dusky green as the most bizarre form, and of the purple mountain milk vetch, cover many square yards, and wherever the chalk is near the surface the clustered pinky-white blossoms of the squinancywort abound. In the autumn, though much wider stretches of heather are found on the Yorkshire and Scottish moors, the colouring there is no more brilliant, and perhaps loses something in intensity by the absence

of contrasting vegetation such as is always to be found in Breckland, either in the areas of bracken, or bents or lichen, or in the belts of Scotch pines which intersect so many heaths.

Before the planting of trees in the district this was the last stronghold in this country of the droves of great bustards, as it is still of the stone curlew or Norfolk plover. No less than 195 species of birds have been recorded within a six-mile radius of Thetford, of which the large proportion of 102 species are known to breed in the district. On the heathland north of the town are several small pools, known as meres, the waters of which rise and fall with the level of saturation in the chalk. Here nest more species of wild duck than in any other part of the British Isles, mallard, gadwall, shoveller, teal, garganey, pochard, and tufted duck all having been recorded.

CHAPTER IV

FENLAND

WRITING in 1769, William Gilpin, M.A., said of the fens :—"It is such a country as a man would wish to see once for curiosity but would never desire to visit a second time. One view sufficiently imprints the idea." But Gilpin was a pessimist, and the fen has many enduring charms. The Rev. Charles Kingsley said that "they have a beauty of their own, these great Fens, even now when they are dyked and drained, tilled and fenced, a beauty as of the sea, of boundless expanse and freedom," and Mark Rutherford says there is "the wide dome-like expanse of the sky, there is the distance, there is the freedom, and there are the stars on a clear night."

The fen plain is the largest in the country, covering some 13,000 square miles, formed by the gradual silting up of a large bay, occupying a widespread hollow in the Jurassic clays. In course of time it is probable that the whole of the

Wash will be similarly silted up. In the north-west corner of Suffolk there is a big area of fen in the parishes of Mildenhall and Lakenheath, but in Norfolk its extent is much greater, including the land between the Great Ouse and Nene and between the lower portions of the Little Ouse and Wissey. The boundary between Norfolk and Cambridgeshire runs in a peculiar zigzag fashion, following the course of the old channel of the Great Ouse. Until the seventeenth century the effect of the tides was felt almost as far as Cambridge. This prevented the fresh water from running away rapidly, and perpetuated the bogs and morasses which then largely formed the fens. Now, in all the fenland of Norfolk and Suffolk there is no tract of unreclaimed fen except Stalode Wash which lies south of the railway line between Lakenheath and Shippea Hill stations.

At the present day the vegetation is a strange mixture of plants of the chalk, marsh and fen. Arrowhead and water violet grow in the dykes by which the greater spearwort is also common. The lesser bladderwort may be found in vast quantities in the mud at the bottom of the dykes in which it forms a regular network, while the common bladderwort floats near the surface of

the water, but is much less abundant. One marsh is covered with the large white blossoms of the black bindweed which trail over rush and sedge, and white and lilac blooms of the self-heal are not uncommon. Sneezewort occurs rarely, but there are thickets of bog myrtle and cladium, and wastes of reeds near the Little Ouse where the otter has his lair.

The fen consists of a wide flat plain of black soil, stretching to a misty horizon, broken here and there by reed beds, peat stacks, wind-battered trees, or an occasional house, often constructed of wood. Low islands rise at intervals as at Southery, Hilgay and Shrub Hill, Feltwell, while further away the great Isle of Ely was said in the twelfth century to be "beset by great meres and fens as though by a strong wall." There are no hedges or hills, and the country is divided by dykes of shining water, as straight as arrows. At an early stage it was covered with a succession of forests, and "fen oak" obtained from the peat is still frequently used. Spanning a drain in Feltwell Fen is the trunk of a yew between 3 feet and 4 feet in diameter, which grew in the primeval forest. The wolf, wild boar, red deer, beaver and urus lived in its

fastnesses ; and cranes, pelicans, and spoonbills in the more swampy portions. The district known as Poppylot is supposed by the late Professor Alfred Newton to have derived its name from popeler, an old term for the spoonbill. Even in comparatively recent times the place was a paradise for wild fowl. So plentiful were the harriers that at Poppylot "Ship" the fenmen amused themselves on Sundays by pelting each other with their eggs. Herons nested on the sallows in the fen ; bitterns, booming "like a deep-mouthed bassoon," were very plentiful, and one fenman used to have one roasted every Sunday for dinner ; redshanks, ruffs and ducks of all kinds abounded ; short-eared owls were so common that I have met a man who flushed thirty in one day while shooting over a small piece of fen covered with dead rushes, about 2 feet in height ; the grasshopper warbler was familiarly known as the "reeler," and the rare Savi's warbler has been found breeding at Poppylot. John Speed recorded that in his day "This Fenny Country is passing rich and plenteous, yea, and beautiful also to behold, wherein is so great store of fish that strangers doe wonder, and water-fowl so cheape that five men may



WHERRIES ON THE WAVENEY, SUFFOLK

The wherry is the characteristic sailing trading craft of Broadland



therewith be satisfied with less than an halfe-penny."

Even some of those fairly familiar with the fens are unaware of the stupendous nature of the works by which engineers have converted a morass into some of the finest corn-land in England. Though the reclamation of the fens was begun by the Romans, complete drainage was not effected until the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries, although considerable work was done in the seventeenth century by Dutch engineers. From the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries Marsh-land was repeatedly "drowned," and in some cases neglect of the sea walls was punished by placing the defaulter in the breach and building him in, or at least so it is stated in Miller and Skertchly's "Fenland." Ordinary high tide is 5 feet above the level of the fens, spring tide 8 feet, and exceptional tides 12 feet, so that the engineering difficulties of protection from the sea are enormous, though most of the floods of the past century have been due to the fact that the river channels and the adjacent "washlands" are insufficient to carry off the water from a heavy fall of snow or long-continued rain. It is not

generally appreciated that until the twelfth century the outfall of the Great Ouse was at Wisbech, and that it was the Little Ouse and its tributaries that entered the Wash by way of Lynn. At that time a cut was made from Littleport to Brandon Creek and the waters of the Great Ouse were diverted into the Little Ouse, but the old course of the river is still traceable in the almost grown-up channel of the Old Welney river. Even in the sixteenth century the outfall of the Nene was so choked with silt that the waters flowed back up the old course of the Great Ouse to Littleport, and so to Lynn. The Bedford Level drainage of the seventeenth century altered this. The old and new Bedford rivers which enter Norfolk at Welney are artificial watercourses 8 feet above the level of the old bed of the Great Ouse. They separate the high land water from the fen drainage, shortening the distance from Earith in Cambridgeshire to Denver by ten miles. Until the formation of the Ouse Drainage Board the Great Ouse, which has a length of 143 miles, with a catchment area of about 1,750,000 acres, had four or five main channel authorities, half a dozen authorities with power over protective embankments only, and internal drainage boards, bringing the number

to nearly a hundred ; even then, only about half the river and three-fifths of the floodable or waterlogged lands were covered.

Denver Sluice near Downham Market, the flood-gate of the Great Ouse and the finest river sluice in England, controls the flood-water of 800,000 acres of land. The first sluice here was built by The Adventurers in 1652, failing about 100 years later. The second stood till 1828, and the present structure was begun in 1832. It consists of three drainage eyes 18 feet wide, the ebb and flow being controlled by two pairs of immense leafed doors, weighing 11 tons each. To the east of these is a huge pen sluice 74 feet long, 18 feet wide and with leafed doors capable of controlling a 24 feet rise of tidal water. Horsemills "for the speedier cleansing and scouring of the drains" were placed near the river banks in the seventeenth century, but in the first quarter of the eighteenth century were replaced by windmills for pumping, a process facetiously termed "grinding water." Those with bucket wheels were utilised by the Dutch, but in the work of the early nineteenth century scoop wheels were invariably employed, although centrifugal pumps have been substituted in many

cases and erected in new stations. The wheel which lifts part of the water from the Littleport and Downham drainage district into the Hundred Foot river at Downham is 5 feet in diameter, has sixty scoops set at a dip of 40 degrees from the radial line and possesses a lift capacity of 17 feet. At full power it can discharge just under 200 tons a minute. This is probably the most powerful scoop-wheel plant in England, and may possibly represent something like the maximum desirable for fen conditions, as the weight of the plant is very great.

Straight canals and ditches aided by numerous pumping stations now carry the sluggish drainage from the land to the river, the latter carrying it onwards to the sea.

In the year 1774 a wonderful voyage on the Fenland waterways was made by the third Earl of Orford, of Houghton, who is well known as having sold to the Empress of Russia the remarkable collection of pictures known as the Houghton Gallery, made by his grandfather, Sir Robert Walpole. The fleet consisted of five sailing vessels, three tenders, and a "bum-ketch," and a start was made from the Highbridge in the Straits of Martin—a cut about a mile north-west

of Lakenheath—on July 17th. There was a numerous company on board the fleet, and for twenty-two days they enjoyed themselves on the rivers, cuts, and meres of the fens. The first day they journeyed to Salter's Lode, the second to Whoresnest Ferry on the Nene, the third to Palmer's Bridge on the Nene, and the fourth to Peterborough, where they stayed two days. Journeying further, the fleet reached Whittlesey Mere, stopped four days, returned to Peterborough for three days, and to Whittlesey for three more. On the eighteenth day the fleet sailed to Ramsey Mere, spent the day following on the Ramsey river, and the day after on the mere, stopped the twenty-first night at Salter's Lode, and reached Lakenheath the next afternoon. By no possibility could this journey be made now—at least in the same fashion—as much of the water over which they sailed is now replaced by dry land.

The Earl of Orford and Messrs. G. Farrington and T. Roberts—volunteers on board the fleet—wrote accounts of the voyage. In the three narratives the varying characteristics of the writers are plainly evidenced, but that by Lord Orford is undeniably the best. Very interesting

is the verdict passed by these travellers on the inhabitants of the fens. Mr. Roberts describes the people in the Norfolk villages of Nordelph, Outwell and Upwell, and the Cambridgeshire village of March, as "meanly clad and dirty"; Mr. Farrington says Outwell "is equally remarkable for the ugliness of the inhabitants as for the handsomeness of the church—a disagreeable, sallow complexion, broad flat nose, and wide mouth predominating amongst them. They are a mixture from a Dutch colony which we were informed settled here at the time of the Revolution." Lord Orford says:—"Many very old women in Upwell, Outwell and March; the sex in general extremely ugly."

Few districts in Norfolk are more inaccessible and more remote from civilising influences than parts of the fen country of which Feltwell Fen may be taken as typical. Feltwell is one of the largest parishes in East Anglia, its area being over nineteen square miles, and its density of population one person to eight acres, or in the fen portion only, which occupies about half the parish, one to sixteen acres. Until the last two or three decades some of the dwellers in the more lonesome parts of these fens were little removed

from barbarism. They spoke uncouthly, were scantily clad, unkempt, and viewed strangers almost as a native of Central Africa would view a white man. The long months of winter, when it is almost impossible to get a vehicle along the fen droves, tend to produce melancholy and superstition, and the few outsiders who know a little of the inner life of the fenmen are aware that in some households the superstitious beliefs and practices are as wonderful as those of any of the heathen whom the foreign missionary societies try to convert. A remarkable account of these was given by the Rev. G. Roper in *Harper's Magazine* in 1893, and though there is admittedly great improvement with the passing of the years, perpetuation is more probable where contact with outside influences is least.

In winter many of the roads are the abomination of desolation. Making a road on fen peat or silt is by no means an easy matter, as was found some fifty years ago, when thousands of tons of stone were sent by barges on the Little Ouse from Brandon, Weeting, Santon Downham and Thetford for the purpose of making up main roads in the fens. In some places stone might almost as well have been thrown into a bottomless

bog, and in other places vast quantities were utilised before an adequate road could be made. The fen peat soaks up water almost like a sponge, and unmade roads with deep ruts resulting from wheeled traffic are fearful places in the winter time. In the winter of 1913 some of the inhabitants of Feltwell and Feltwell Anchor sent a protest as to the state of the roads to the rural Council. The ratepayers said :—" Our children slough to school through 6 inches of mud and water on the roads and paths, which is undoubtedly the cause of deaths and illness amongst them. They actually get stuck in the mud, three and four at a time, and have to call for help to get them out. If any of us are ill and dying in the night, we cannot get a doctor until it is light, and not then sometimes. We cannot bury our dead unless we convey them by river to the grave." And not only is the condition of the roads cruel to children, but also to animals. Three powerful cart horses have been seen unsuccessfully attempting to pull an empty tumbril on a fen drove. This deplorable condition of the fen roads still recurs in bad winters, and there seems no remedy save an expenditure which it is beyond the means of the locality to incur.





There was formerly a decoy in that part of Feltwell Fen lying about a mile from Brandon Creek, and a lease of this decoy in 1742—that is before the fen was drained—states that the rent of the land around was to be £10 per year when dry and £5 when wet. It was to be adjudged dry when “cattle may graze upon any part of the land to feed upon any grass or hassock sward,” etc. These days are gone, and many parts of the fen are now extremely good agricultural land, though the drainage rates are high. In 1747, 1,535 ducks were captured in this decoy, and in 1752, 3,960, and delivered at “Lakenheath Brig” at a cost of 6*d.* per dozen. This decoy has long been drained, and only a depression in the ground marks its site.

The history of this fen is a record of one long struggle between man and nature, and though since the first Act for the draining of the district was obtained in 1751, and another in 1806, man has gained the upper hand, several times within the memory of many now living the waters resumed their old sway. In 1852 the bank of the Little Ouse burst in two places, one some 200 yards above Crosswater Staunch, and the other a quarter of a mile below the footbridge

near Feltwell "Anchor," where the writer once obtained a cheap reputation for knowledge as one of those wonderful persons who could "read a map." As a result of these breaches many miles of Fenland were under water for several months. At that time the fens were infested with vipers, and for weeks they were seen sticking to the trees like huge leeches, but ultimately fell off and were drowned, while hares also found a temporary shelter among the branches. In some of the cottages the water was up to the bedroom windows. In one the family carried their potatoes to the bedroom, and were then rescued by a boat and taken to the high land. A few days after a sheet was seen frantically waved from the bedroom, and on investigation being made it was found that some thieves had gone after the potatoes, but that while they were getting them their boat had drifted away, and they were left stranded.

Following the disastrous rainfall at the end of August, 1912, a breach 100 yards in length was made in the bank at Hockwold, and much of the Hockwold and Feltwell Fen was then inundated. Early in 1915 there was another burst, and the Cross Bank, protecting Southery Fen,

also gave way under the pressure, and a rich agricultural area was under water for a long period, the occupiers losing all their crops and much of their live stock.

Yet though most of the fen in comparatively recent times was undrained bog, it is now more productive than most parts of the country, and probably few districts in England are more intensively cultivated than the area known as Marshland, lying in the triangle between Lynn, Downham Market and Wisbech. For the most part it consists of a deposit of silt instead of the peat found further south, varies between 10 and 20 feet above sea-level, and though in places the fields and pastures are divided by ditches, hedges are more general, and it has the appearance of well-enclosed country rather than of fen.

Cultivation is carried on by the most approved modern methods, and small holdings are nowhere more successful or fulfil a more useful purpose in rural economy. This is due to a variety of causes, but chiefly to the natural suitability of the land for the cultivation of fruits and potatoes, although the most characteristic areas are devoted to market gardening, in which the cultivation of strawberries occupies a foremost position. Here

there is no waste of land. In the lines of apple and other fruit trees, fruit bushes are planted between one tree and another, while the space between the rows is used either for strawberries or potatoes. That Marshland has not been recently reclaimed and settled is testified by the magnificent churches, probably a finer group than can be found elsewhere in East Anglia in a district of like extent.

CHAPTER V

IN PREHISTORIC TIMES

CHIEFLY owing to the excellent quality of flint obtainable, but also in a lesser degree to the geological strata, subsoil and climate, few areas in the world of similar size have yielded so much evidence concerning the implements and weapons of prehistoric man as East Anglia. The late Dr. W. Allen Sturge described it as “not only one of the richest in the world for the older Palæolithic remains, but it is probably the richest—I might perhaps go further and say incomparably the richest—in the world in Neolithic remains.”

From the preservation and exposure of Pliocene and Pleistocene deposits, opportunities for obtaining evidence of the predecessors of the Palæolithic races whose implements are found in the gravels and brick-earths are more frequent here than in other parts of England. Flints claimed to have been chipped by man have been found in the stone-bed beneath the Suffolk,

Norwich and Weybourne Crag, in the Cromer Forest Bed, the Contorted Drift, Chalky Boulder Clay and glacial gravels. Most of these are still, however, the subject of considerable controversy, much of which will be meaningless should the Palæolithic implements of the drift and brick-earths ultimately be proved pre- or inter-glacial, as seems not unlikely.

When in 1797 Mr. John Frere found at Hoxne a number of fine Palæolithic implements, he ascribed them to "a very remote period indeed; even beyond that of the present world," and to a people who had not the use of metals. Owing to the discoveries in the valley of the Somme there was a recrudescence of interest in the subject in the 'sixties of last century, and considerable numbers of implements were found in the gravels of East Anglia, which were then being extensively worked in order to provide material for the construction of the roads in the fens. It is evident that man lived for many generations through the two periods of culture known after Chelles and St. Acheul on the surface of what is now Norfolk and Suffolk, that he chipped flint into certain definite types, the hand-axe being the common tool of the earlier period, and the ovate

of the later, and that from some cause vast floods swept bare the whole of the countryside and deposited the *débris* in beds of gravel in ancient valleys. A few more or less isolated implements escaped these devastating floods, but thousands were washed into gravel beds, particularly in or near the valleys of the Little Ouse, Thet and Lark. Some of the implementiferous gravels at Brandon, Lakenheath and Mildenhall are now 90 feet above the level of the present rivers, while that at Shrub Hill, Feltwell, is more than a mile distant. The brick-earths containing implements at Elveden, Barnham, Hoxne and elsewhere, of course bear no relation to the river systems. When the pit at Hoxne was examined by a committee of the British Association in 1896 they reported that the implements occurred at the rate of 1 in 10 square yards, and that the implement-yielding beds were separated from the latest East Anglian boulder clay by two climatic waves, with corresponding changes of flora.

In most of the East Anglian gravels there appears to be an admixture of implements of Chelles and St. Acheul types, but no evidence is available as to whether these were in strati-

graphical sequence. At Ipswich, Miss Nina Layard, F.L.S., discovered not only a fine series of St. Acheul flakes, but also numerous smaller implements, such as scrapers, knives and borers, and finds at Runton and Gresham are also of this date. Those from Santon Downham, including "some of the best specimens of Palæolithic flint-work hitherto discovered," are chiefly St. Acheul, as are those of Warren Hill, Mildenhall, noted for the beauty and variety of their patina. At most of the remaining stations where considerable numbers of implements have been disinterred, Brettenham, Snarehill, Thetford, Weeting, Feltwell, Lakenheath, High Lodge, Mildenhall, and Icklingham, the Chelles types seem to predominate.

The mammalian remains associated with these implements in East Anglia are few, the chief being the mammoth, herds of which crashed through the forests. We know, however, that the woolly rhinoceros and the hippopotamus bathed in the streams or wallowed in the swamps. The bellow of the bull and the cry of the wolf were common sounds; wild horses, wild boars, stags, Irish elks, lions, bisons, grizzly bears, hyenas and wild cats roamed the country, and had passage by



THE ABBEY FARM, THETFORD, NORFOLK

With part of the remains of the Cluniac Priory of St. Mary, founded by Roger Bigod in 1104, one of the five largest monasteries of that order in England.



land to and from the Continent. Man had no knowledge of pottery or of the working of metals, no domesticated animals, and probably did not cultivate the soil.

There is very little definite evidence of the occupation of East Anglia during the four great Palæolithic cave-periods, named after Le Moustier, Aurignac, Solutré and La Madeleine. Brick-earth at High Lodge, Mildenhall, has yielded numerous implements which may be definitely assigned to the period of Le Moustier, to which in all probability also belong a few implements found in a rich bone-bed at Stoke Hill, Ipswich, by Miss Layard. The associated fauna consisted of mammoth, cave-bear, cave-lion (larger than any British species except the Crayford lion), red deer, wolf, and giant horses and oxen. A floor at Ipswich is probably of Aurignac date. Mr. Reid Moir has two Solutré shouldered points from Ipswich and I have one from brick-earth at Barnham; and the La Madeleine period appears to be represented by a floor at East Wretham. Comparisons between English surface specimens and those from the French caves in his own unrivalled collection led the late Dr. W. Allen Sturge, of Icklingham Hall, to the conclusion

that these periods were well represented in East Anglia, occasionally on floors a foot or two beneath the present surface, and even more frequently by implements mingled with ordinary Neolithic types in the surface soil.

Implements of the Neolithic period are found in great abundance in Norfolk and Suffolk. Chipped specimens have been recorded for about 300 Norfolk and 160 Suffolk parishes, and polished for 150 Norfolk and 80 Suffolk parishes, and there is little doubt that they are even more widely distributed than these figures indicate. Over most of the heavy lands they are made from surface flints derived directly or indirectly from the boulder clay, and are rougher and less diversified in character than those from the light lands, which are often made of flint excavated from the chalk. They occur frequently on the plateaux and valley slopes of the river valleys, and there are several records of 1,000 specimens having been obtained from a single field. It is probable that detailed and skilful search in almost any parish in either county—excluding Broadland and Fenland—would reveal implements of the Neolithic period. On some of the sandy brecks of north-west Suffolk and south-west Norfolk, of

all the flints lying on the surface, those chipped by man are in a majority, and on any square mile of these prolific areas, millions of humanly chipped flints, including implements, flakes, and the *débris* of the prehistoric flint-knapper's work, await the collector. From this it might be assumed that it is an easy matter to find desirable examples of the handiwork of Neolithic man. After twenty-eight years' experience of field-work I can testify that this is not the case. Of the humanly chipped flints picked up by the average discriminating collector, probably not more than one in a hundred is retained. From this enormous number of implements it is obvious either that there must have been a large population or a very lengthy occupation. All the evidence favours the latter hypothesis.

Writing of flint implements in "Mosses from an old Manse," Nathaniel Hawthorne said :— "Their great charm consists in their rudeness and in the individuality of each article, so different from the productions of civilised machinery, which shapes everything on one pattern." This individuality of the combined designer and maker is certainly one of the greatest attractions to the archæologist, and even in well-defined types

numerous variations from the normal may usually be found. Among the commoner types of implements found in East Anglia are scrapers of various forms, knives, arrow and spear heads (tanged and barbed, leaf-shaped and hollow-based), harpoon barbs, saws (one has thirty-three teeth on an edge $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length), axes, prismatic tools, hammerstones, and cones. Some of the axes are wonderful examples of chipping. Five found by a gardener while celery-trenching at Whitlingham were all in what may be described as "mint condition," and were evidently made by the same craftsman. Pygmy implements have been noted from a few parishes, but the only site where they have occurred in abundance is at Wangford, near Brandon.

During most of the Neolithic period the area of both counties was greater than at present, that of Norfolk being probably a third larger, the ten-fathom line roughly indicating the land lost by submergence and denudation. The old coast-line was on the whole parallel with the present except off north-west Norfolk, where a vast tract of land has vanished, the furthestmost point being about thirty-five miles distant from the present coast at Titchwell. In all probability

the Inner Dowsing sands indicate the Lincolnshire coast-line at that period, while between this and Norfolk ran the estuary of the combined Fenland rivers, the old channel being marked by the twenty-fathom Lynn Deeps and the thirty-fathom Silver Pit. The lost land area was broken up by creeks and lagoons ; thickets of oak, hazel, willow and birch flourished ; and among the forests were tracts of swamp, forming submerged peat-beds, of which traces are found along the Norfolk and Suffolk coasts. Much of the broads district would be inaccessible except in canoes, and some of the modern rivulets were large streams broadening out in shallow lakes and providing plentiful supplies of fish and fowl for the tribes who dwelt on their shores. When, owing to the subsidence of the land, the rivers could no longer deepen their channels, they widened them, acting now on one side and then on the other of the valley. The same cause allowed the sea to flow in at the mouths of the streams, producing estuarine conditions in the valleys, ultimately changed by their gradual silting-up. At Norwich there is over 40 feet of alluvium and at Wroxham 72 feet.

During this period flint was of such importance

that mines were sunk in the chalk to obtain raw material of the best quality. Black flint was excavated, but through long exposure the surface layer in most implements has changed to white, the black colouring matter having dissolved from a thin coating. The implements made by the miners are also of peculiar form, easily identifiable, and known as the "Cissbury type." Cissbury is near Worthing in Sussex, and here there is a large group of these flint-mines. Implements of this type occur in considerable numbers at certain stations in East Anglia, the most noted being at Grime's Graves, Weeting, about three miles from Brandon, where there is one of the finest groups of prehistoric flint-mines in the world. These were described by early antiquaries as ancient fortifications, a Danish encampment, and even as recently as 1852 as a British village, but in 1870 Canon Greenwell and Lord Rosehill excavated one of the numerous hollows of which the Graves consist, and found that it was the filled-in shaft of a mine which had been sunk through sand and chalky boulder clay into the chalk for flint.

Early in 1914 the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia undertook the excavation of two pits,

which occupied about three months, and provided more information than is available about any other prehistoric flint-mines in Europe. The general appearance of the surface is of small hills composed of chalk *débris*—on which grow the rock-rose and the deadly nightshade—alternating with hollows from 1 to 10 feet deep, and varying in size from 88 feet by 64 feet to 19 feet by 24 feet, representing the filled-in shafts, of which a careful survey of the area showed that there are remains of 366. The first pit excavated was 32 feet by 29 feet at the surface and the second 42 feet by 43 feet. Both were filled with the *débris* from other shafts, and contained definite occupation levels with cooking-places, split bones, charcoal and landshells. In the filling-in were also portions of two skeletons, discarded picks made from antlers of the red deer, and thousands of flakes and flint implements. The only evidence of the physical characteristics of the miners was provided by part of the skull of a man under thirty years of age, and part of the skeleton of a child—probably a girl—aged about thirteen. The former had a brain capacity above the mean for modern Englishmen, and the skull was also slightly larger and considerably wider than the

modern average. The girl was remarkable for a particularly slender conformation of body.

The bottoms of the shafts were reached about 30 feet from the surface, and from them radiated tunnels in the chalk, a typical one having an entrance $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height and $3\frac{1}{4}$ feet across. Most of the galleries were filled almost to the roof with chalk rubble excavated from adjoining galleries and pushed through holes in the sides. These galleries curved in various directions and occupied most of the area underground at a depth of 30 feet, and it is probable that this wonderful subterranean labyrinth extends over an area of many acres. From the first shaft twenty-seven galleries were reached, though these were apparently connected with at least five other shafts. The galleries were excavated solely with deer-antler picks and flint axes, and in the roofs and sides there were many holes made by the tips of the picks, while the chalk in various apses had been cut away by the flint axes, the marks of the cutting edge being easily discernible. In a few instances an unfinished gallery was found where the miners had actually been at work shortly before the shaft was closed. In one of these cases the workmen had carefully placed

their unbroken picks at the end of the gallery where the fine layer of "floorstone" was exposed. In another case the miners had quarried their flint, squared it and piled it in a heap ready for removal to the surface. By the side of the heap were pottery fragments, apparently the remains of a vessel, perhaps used by the miners to carry water. The most common miner's tool was the pick made from an antler of the red deer, from which the crown and the bez and trez tines had been removed by cutting or by fire, leaving the brow tine to be used as the pick and the beam as the handle. When the point of the brow tine became broken or blunted, the tool was discarded. In the two pits excavated, 244 of these antler-picks were discovered, and it is probable that about 57,000 still lie in the various unopened shafts and galleries at Grime's Graves. In some cases the chalk in which the miners had been working had become encrusted on the handle of the pick, and excellent finger-prints—probably the oldest known—were left by the miner who used it.

Animal bones showed that red and roe deer dwelt in the forests; the beaver made dams in the neighbouring river valley; horses, oxen,

sheep and swine, either wild or semi-domesticated, were used by the miners for food ; and foxes and dogs (one of these about the size of an Airedale terrier) also lived in the district. Of the smaller animals whose skeletons were found, the most abundant were the bats, four species (for one of which there were only three British records) finding the cool chalk galleries a highly desirable roosting place. The thousands of shells of molluscs mainly belonged to a woodland group requiring shade and moisture, so that the barren heathland covered with bracken and heather, of which the district now consists, was then apparently absent, or much more restricted in area.

Until towards the end of the Neolithic age, with very few exceptions, all flint implements were shaped by chipping only, but it was then found that for certain implements such as knives and axes, rubbing and polishing provided a better cutting-edge. Most of these tools were first chipped into shape and then rubbed, so that traces of the earlier working are usually visible. Prehistoric residents of East Anglia also found by experience that the grey flint brought by the glaciers from the chalk of the Lincolnshire Wolds,

and left in the boulder clay, was susceptible of a better polish than the local black flint, and probably 80 per cent. of the polished axes found in Norfolk and Suffolk are of this material. Fresh types of implements were also made. Pebbles of hard stone were perforated, or grooved, and used as hammerstones, superseding the flint pebbles, more or less circular and sometimes chipped into shape, which had previously been used for the purpose.

One of the greatest advances made by man was when he acquired a knowledge of the use of metals. The earliest stages in smelting and casting did not take place in this country, and a considerable degree of proficiency in metal-working had been attained ere immigrants arrived with tools and weapons of bronze. This was about 1900 B.C., and bronze remained in use, often in conjunction with flint, until about 400 B.C. Settlements must have been fairly widespread in East Anglia as relics of this period have been found in eighty-six Norfolk and over forty Suffolk parishes. In many cases the record may relate to a solitary celt or spearhead, but in several cases big hoards have been found which have thrown considerable light on this stage of culture. Those from

Felixstowe, Martlesham, Thorndon, Santon Downham, Carleton Rode, Stibbard, Hackford and Eaton are noteworthy. One of the rarest forms of bronze implement is the dagger, a fine example of which from Sproughton is in the British Museum.

Flint and bronze implements are naturally the most enduring memorials of these vanished races, but the comparatively few indications of their habitations is somewhat remarkable. About 1,000 hut-circles have, however, been counted on the hills at Weybourne, and similar depressions occur on Mousehold Heath, at Beeston Regis, Eaton, Marsham, Massingham, Roughton, Wellingham and Ringland.

Remains of lake-dwellings were discovered in Wretham West Mere in 1851, with bones of the Celtic ox and red deer, skulls of goats, of a boar and pig, and flint disks ; in Wretham Great Mere in 1856, when oak posts were found buried in 20 feet of mud ; and in Barton Mere in 1867.

Of the long barrows that mark burial-places of the Neolithic period there are no undoubted examples in Norfolk or Suffolk, but there are at least 200 round barrows, most of which have been proved by excavation to belong to the Bronze

Age. The burrowing of rabbits for century after century, the effect of wind and rain on sandy soil, Enclosure Acts and the subsequent increase of the area of arable land, and the utilitarian farmer and road surveyor who carted the soil away to improve pastures or mend roads, have combined to reduce the number of barrows distinguishable to a mere fraction of those which at one time existed, but there are big groups in south-east and north-west Suffolk, and in north, north-west, and south-west Norfolk.

Though there are surprisingly few traditions concerning the barrows, yet the curiosity they aroused in the minds of dwellers in the neighbourhood is shown by the fact that so many of them have names. That it was "a very mysterious mound" was all that I could glean from a shepherd concerning a barrow at Croxton, but he was able to inform me that it was called "Mickle Hill" (a name hitherto unrecorded), and a similar enquiry at Garboldisham led to the discovery that the barrow was called "Soldiers' Hill," because (as my informant said) it was "where the soldiers were buried who were killed in the wars." At Bodney the barrow is called "Man Hill" owing to a tradition, borne out by the facts when

excavations were conducted by the late Lord Amherst of Hackney in 1901, that a man was buried there—a remarkable instance of folk-memory. “Nonmete Hill” and “Old Groggrams” at Forncett have long been carted away. “Gallow Hill” at Salthouse, “Gallows Hill” at Thetford, and “Gibbet Hill” at Eccles indicate a use to which these mounds were put in mediæval times, while “Tut Hill” at Rushford and Knettishall shows that their value as look-outs was also recognised. “Maid’s Cross Hill” at Lakenheath is surmounted by the base of a mediæval cross. The mysterious virtue attached to the number seven is indicated by three groups of barrows at Rushford, Ingham, and Nacton, known as “Seven Hills,” though this is an inaccurate counting, and “Three-halfpenny Hill” and “Three-farthing Hill” on Salthouse Heath may indicate the presumed difference in size. The “Giant’s Grave” at Terrington St. Clement is said by tradition to be the burial place of Tom Hickathrift; “Court Hill” at Frettenham was the meeting place of the Hundred Court; “Grim’s Hoe,” adjoining Grime’s Graves, gave its name to the Hundred; and “Pepper Hill” at Weeting is said to be so called because from its poplar-

crowned summit "Oliver Cromwell peppered Weeting Castle." Some of the other names are less intelligible. One at Great Bircham is "The Barrow," and "Middleton Mount" is at Middleton. Then there are "Sparrow Hills" at Merton, "Mill Hill" at Tottington, "Bell Hill" at Belton, "Jennet's Hill" at West Stow, "Travelers' Hill" at Wordwell, "Hill of Health" at Culford, "Elder Hill" at Rushford, "Blood Hill" or "Bloody Knoll" at Santon, "Mona Hill" (formerly "North Hill") at Necton, "Hangour" or "Anker Hill" at Beechamwell, "Two Hills," "Hare's Hill" and "Rowhow Hill" at Roughton, "Howe's Hill" at Sheringham, "How Hill" at Icklingham, "Black Hill" at Troston, and "Candlestick Hill" at Letheringsett.

The question of prehistoric trackways is one of some difficulty, as most of them have been so altered as to be unrecognisable. Three at least seem able to maintain their "claims of long descent." The Icknield Way after a long and tortuous course from the south-west entered Suffolk at Newmarket, after passing through the great Cambridgeshire ditches between there and Royston, crossed the Kennet at Kentford, the Lark at Lackford, and the Little Ouse and Thet at

Thetford, beyond which it can only be traced to Roudham Heath, whence the route is lost. It is highly probable that Peddar's Way, which can still be followed in an almost unbroken line from Holme-next-the-Sea near Hunstanton to the Blackwater Ford of the Little Ouse at Riddlesworth, and thence to Stanton, was originally prehistoric, adopted and improved by the Romans. On Roudham Heath it is joined by the Drove, which begins at Hockwold on the border of the fens, and for most of its course is the best preserved prehistoric track in East Anglia. By far the greater part of these early trackways consists of a green road bordered by earthen banks and passing through districts as wild and remote as any in the eastern counties, and more nearly resembling the aspect of the countryside

“ In the days that are forgotten,
In the unremembered ages.”

When the use of iron became more or less general, the art of metal-working and enamelling reached a remarkable degree of perfection, while in the industrial arts, the excellence attained was probably not again equalled until after the Norman Conquest, except in centres of Romano-British civilisation, which mark the beginning of the historic period.

WROXHAM BRIDGE, NORFOLK—A RAINY DAY

The best known and most frequented spot in Broadland



A. HEARD N. C. 1908

CHAPTER VI

AN ARCHAIC INDUSTRY

THOUGH not to quite so great an extent as formerly, Brandon is still a town of flint—flint houses and walls, flint chapels, flint roads, flint chip-stacks and flint-knappers. Few existing settlements in England can reasonably claim a greater antiquity, for it is not improbable that it was formed in the Neolithic period, when shafts were sunk in the chalk of the neighbourhood in order to obtain the excellent black flint for manufacture into arrowheads and axes, and all the varying implements which the ingenuity of Neolithic man conceived or his necessity demanded. It is probable that the working of flint for one purpose or another has been uninterruptedly pursued from that time to the present. The making of flint implements undoubtedly continued till the beginning of the Christian era, and the Romans used faced flints as is proven by their camps at Caistor, near Norwich, and Burgh Castle, near Yarmouth. Then came the strike-

a-lights, and there seems to be a definite line of evolution through these from the Neolithic scraper to the modern gunflint. The older Neolithic scrapers were worked to a segment of a circle with a bulb of percussion at the base, and were succeeded by circular or oval scrapers with the bulb chipped away. These were followed by the oval strike-a-light, that which was almost circular, and then the ribless strike-a-light rounded at the heel. From this came the seventeenth century gunflints which were likewise rounded at the heel, followed by the ribless gunflints, the single-backed gunflint, and the modern double-backed gunflint. Since flint-lock guns came into use in 1686 and gunflints were used to secure a spark with which to fire the charge, Brandon has been the centre of the gunflint industry in England. Scores of East Anglian churches also contain splendid examples of squared flint, which in many cases there is reason to believe was the work of the Brandon knappers, whose fame was so widespread that they were engaged to do the flint-work in churches as far apart as Cromer and St. Leonard's, and probably many others of which record has been lost.

It has been seriously contended that the modern

flint-knappers are lineal descendants of those who made flint arrowheads in the days when metals were unknown. There are, at any rate, curious analogies between the ancient flint-miners at Grime's Graves and the modern ones at Lingheath. Mr. S. B. J. Skertchly has pointed out that both worked a number of pits close together, sunk direct to the "floorstone," drove burrows into the chalk, "drew" the flint in semi-circular apses, burrowed about twelve yards, and filled the worked burrows with chalk, used a one-sided pick, flaked with a round-headed hammer, made oval and horse-shoe implements, and undercut the sides. This opinion is strengthened by an absence of such similarities in centres known to be modern. From investigations reported to the British Association in 1880 it appears that a large proportion of the population contrasted markedly in the colour of their hair and eyes with the general population of Norfolk and Suffolk, and it was contended that these were descendants of the pre-Celtic race of the Neolithic Age, distinguished by being short and swarthy, with black hair and eyes, and long, narrow heads. A trace of this descent may perhaps be found in the assertion of Thetford people half a century

ago that it was always possible to identify natives of Brandon by the gaudiness of their clothes.

It is probable that the quantity of flint used for making strike-a-lights was at no time very large, and no definite knowledge is available as to whence the flint was excavated. But when gunflints came into use the demand was much greater, and there are traces of flint-workings at Santon Downham, Weeting (immediately north of Bromehill plantation), Santon (east of St. Helen's Well and in the eastern arm of the Half-moon plantation), and in Brandon Park. About 1720 pits were first sunk in Lingheath, a sandy plateau south-east of Brandon, and until a few years ago the flint from which gunflints are made was almost entirely obtained from this place. During the Napoleonic wars it is said to have supplied the whole British Army with raw material for gunflints. Such a picture as it now presents can be seen nowhere else in England, for far and wide there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of half-moon shaped mounds of disintegrated and age-discoloured chalk, among them being the depressions marking the sites of the filled-in pits which were sunk for flint. The colour of

the chalk denotes the relative antiquity of the pits. Those nearest the Little Ouse were the earliest worked, and are shallower than those higher up the heath, being consequently known as the "fleet" pits, while the newly-raised chalk in those recently worked in the south-eastern corner of the heath is almost pure white. The pits are sunk by men who are their own masters, only three or four being regularly at work, and of these one is generally a Dyer, for men of this family have carried on the work for generations. Each man is permitted to dig two pits at a time, first marking out on the surface by lumps of chalk a parallelogram about 6 feet long by 3 feet wide. He digs down 4 or 5 feet, and then in the centre makes a square hole, and at a depth of 5 feet extends the hole north and south or east and west. The implements with which he works are a one-pronged pick, apparently modelled on the deer-antler pick of prehistoric man, and a short-handled shovel, and it takes about three weeks to sink a pit to a depth of 30 feet. In each pit four layers or "sases"—a local word of which nothing appears to be known—of flint are usually found, firstly, "toppings," then "upper crust," "wallstone" and "floor-

stone." Above the "toppings" are often found knobs of flint known as "horns," and beneath the "floorstone" is the "black smoothstone," best of all, but as it is in the water, it is found impossible to work it. Stage by stage the man digs down, at every 5 feet forming a "toe," by which he ascends or descends. No machinery whatever is employed—even the elementary principle of the windlass has not been utilised—and the miner simply drops or climbs by footholes in the chalk from one stage to another. When the floorstone is reached at a depth of about 35 feet, galleries are formed, and the flint, broken up by a hammer and prized apart with a crowbar, has then to be taken to the surface. Sometimes weighing several hundredweights, it is jerked from "toe" to "toe" by the miner's head, on which, for protection, he wears the crown of an old bowler hat. As the steps overhang, the sky is often not visible from the bottom of the shaft, and all work is then done by candlelight, the candle being stuck in a piece of chalk, as were the lights of the Grime's Graves miners thousands of years ago.

Selecting one of the pits where the chalk is whitest, you may hear rumblings and knockings

from the depths of what looks very like a well, and it is easy to believe that these flint-miners can get up or down a narrow well solely by their hands and knees. To talk with a man working 40 or 50 feet below the surface, dimly visible in the darkness by the fitful glimmer of a solitary candle, with no other human being in sight, is to be transported to prehistoric times, to the days of the troglodytes. Some of the terms used accentuate this archaic atmosphere. A pit sunk more on the slope than usual is called "bubby hutching on the sosh." The latter phrase is a fairly common Breckland expression for "slanting," but I have only met one man who could give a reasonable explanation of "bubby hutching." "When I was a boy," he said, "about 1870, I lived at East Harling, and we used the word for a gig with a hood and a kind of peak in front, this being known as a 'bubber-hutch gig.' I used to think that it came from a rabbit-hutch with a shutter in front, which could be lifted up and made to stand out horizontally from the top of the hutch, which was therefore called a 'bubby hutch.'" Its sole applicability to flint-mining appears to be that the pit is so sunk that after the first stage there is always

overhead protection from the weather, such as would be provided by the so-called "bubby" of the hutch. In Suffolk the term "bubby-hutch" is used in a disparaging sense of any closed-in vehicle, hut or fowl-house. When excavated the flint is sold to the flint-merchants, a one-horse load being made of one and a half "jags" or "joggs," which consist of a quantity of flints piled on the ground so that standing on any side the bottom flint on the other side can be seen.

An underground horizontal section of Lingheath at a depth of 30 to 40 feet would present a wonderful appearance, as the chalk has been "burrowed" in all directions. Each man's plot is called his "take," and for it he pays a royalty called "groundage." When the flint is "gain" it is near in a horizontal direction; when "fleet" it is near the surface. Many of the flints are covered with protuberances known as "paps" and "horns." Sometimes there are hollows from natural causes, and the flint is known as a "gulper," or may be coloured like the rock of Gibraltar and is then known as "gib." A "jamb" (pronounced "jarm") is a massive pillar left as a support, though elsewhere in the

district a "jamb" of brick-earth or sand simply means a fine deposit.

After being carted from Lingheath to the sheds used by the flint-knappers in the town of Brandon, the flint is first broken up or "quartered" with a hammer weighing about 7 lbs. The advantages of local flint are that it is more homogeneous, more free from fossils, almost lustreless when fractured, and "runs" easily into long, thin flakes, though if left too long it changes colour, and becomes dry and unworkable. Nevertheless it must not be too greasy, and in damp weather has to be dried.

The flints are broken with ease by the workmen, who seem to have some intuitional knowledge of the line of cleavage, for with a short hammer, such as a blacksmith uses, they will tap the flint, and by its ringing know where to strike. A comparatively gentle blow will then divide it, when a tremendous onslaught with a sledgehammer would leave it perfectly whole. The workman wears a leather apron, and his left knee is bound with thick pieces of leather against which the block of flint rests. After being quartered into sections about 6 inches thick, the flint is next "flaked." Until the time of the

Napoleonic wars the flaking was always done with an English round-faced hammer, but some of the French prisoners of war then brought to England used an oblong hammer for this purpose, a hammer that has since been adopted by the Brandon flint-workers. It weighs about $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and has a square steel face gradually decreasing in size from the centre to the faces, which measure only $\frac{1}{2}$ inch by $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. French terms have also persisted, and for wholesale purposes gunflints are generally quoted at "*per mille*," and described as "*pierres à feu*," and sometimes as "fusee-flints." In order to "flake," the workman takes a "quarter" in his left hand, places it on his knee, and holding the flint at an angle, gives it light, well-directed blows with a hammer held at an angle of 45 degrees. At each blow a long, narrow strip of flint, or "flake" about 6 inches long and 1 wide, falls off. With such a remarkable knack is this accomplished that as a rule each flake is left with two ridges as in a gunflint. These are the best, and are known as "double-backed," while the "single-backed" ones are seconds, and each usually has a well-marked "bulb of percussion." A flint which does not flake easily is called "bruckly," from

the old English "brucol" which means uncertain. If good the flake is put in a tin; if bad it goes to swell the heap of chips outside the workshop. These are now chiefly used for concrete foundations and for pottery-making, but twenty years ago there were heaps of these chips containing thousands of tons, as quite half the flint brought to the sheds is waste. Flint chips were formerly used as a top-dressing for footpaths and also as road material, but in these days of motor-cars and bicycles that is forbidden.

These flakes are worked up by the knappers—a term which I have seen asserted is of Flemish origin—into sharp-edged squares, which are the gunflints of commerce. The hammers used are made of cast steel flat files 9 inches long—the only ones that are satisfactory—and after they have been altered by a blacksmith they have long thin heads, 2 inches in length each side of the handle, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in width, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in depth, and are set obliquely. A solid block, usually consisting of a tree-trunk, is fixed on pieces of wood and flint, and in the top is fixed a "stake" of soft iron, everywhere except the point being surrounded by leather, so as to give the necessary resilience. This "stake" is fixed slightly

obliquely in the block, and projects about 3 inches. The face is $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and the flake being held on the "stake" with the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, is gently tapped by the "knapper" and broken wherever desired. The edges are then trimmed on the edge of the stake, the knapper's hand working freely from the wrist and being continually in motion. The arm is never moved, and the elbow is pressed on the knee. A flake is usually the length of two or three gunflints, of which about 3,000 can be made by a skilful knapper in a day, while (with good flint) the number of flakes made in the same time sometimes amounts to 7,000 or 8,000. About 1870 it was considered that a skilled workman could make from 16,000 to 18,000 gunflints a week, and the average weekly output for twenty men was from 200,000 to 250,000. All around him the knapper has a heterogeneous collection of old tins, pails and buckets, and into these, with unerring precision, he sorts the various sizes and qualities. Every knapper knows the work of his own hands and can select blindfold gunflints he has made when mixed with others. Those that are partly formed of a fragment of chalk or crust are termed "chalk heels," and are painted over

with a black mixture, which is absorbed by the chalk and greatly adds to their appearance. At one time the gunflints of commerce were divided into twenty-three classes, but the chief are now musket, carbine, horse pistol, and single-barrel, while others are rifle, double-barrel, and pocket pistol. There is at the present time a considerable demand for flints for "Dane" guns, that is, long guns made in Denmark and used by the Arabs. During the palmy days of the gunflint industry as much as £2 10s. per 1,000 was paid for gunflints, and knappers earned £10 a week. About forty years ago the raw material cost for mining, royalty, cartage, etc., about 11s. a ton, and manufactured flints sold at from 4s. to 4s. 6d. per 1,000. At the present day the prices are even lower and the knapper's earnings have correspondingly decreased. Nor is his life in other ways to be envied. From inhaling the minute particles of flint constantly floating in the air, and with which the sack suspended over his head becomes thoroughly covered, the knapper's lungs get affected, and he usually dies of consumption before he is forty-five. Only a few years ago there were eight widows of the same name in Brandon, the husband of each having

been a knapper who had died comparatively young. A father and three sons all died from the same complaint in a period of three or four years, and of eight men who worked together in one shop, seven died in early manhood. The knappers call their mealtimes "dockey," a word which is commonly used throughout the fens.

The finished gunflints are then taken to the packing-house, where the first operation is to count them, this being done in a peculiar manner. After being all laid out on a table, the teller places three fingers of the right hand and two of the left on gunflints, and then rapidly puts them aside. Every five, the number thus grasped, is known as a "cast" and counts as a unit, and twenty "casts" equal 100, which are drawn from the counter with a striker. An expert can easily count 20,000 an hour. After counting, they are packed away in ordinary hooped casks, ready for exportation. Some casks only contain 5,000, but others over 50,000. They were formerly packed in half barrels, each containing 2,000 musket, 3,000 carbine, or 4,000 pistol flints, and weighing 65 or 70 lbs. As orders occasionally come for two millions, a large stock must necessarily be kept. The gunflint manufacturer has

a primitive method of book-keeping by which $0 = \text{£}1$, $\theta = 10s.$, $1 = 1s.$, $- = 1d.$, $\wedge = \text{jag}$, ($= \text{half-jag}$, and $7 = 7$, the only figure employed.*

For many centuries there was a large demand for tinder-flints, technically "strike-a-lights," but the introduction of matches practically spoilt the trade, except for a few exported to South America, Spain and Italy, and for the use of travellers in the tropics. The "Frenchmen" are horseshoe-shaped, and the "Englishmen" ovoid, somewhat like Neolithic scrapers. During the South African War there was a temporary revival, for matches were almost useless during certain seasons of the year, and 14,000 tinder-flints were made at Brandon and exported. A fairly good trade was also done with patent tinder-boxes, containing steel, "fuse," gunflint, and small lens. Another branch of the trade is the facing of flint for churches and other ancient buildings. In 1870 these faced flints sold at about 2s. 9d. per cwt. The knappers are also capable of furnishing an unlimited supply of "prehistoric relics." Large quantities of such spurious specimens have been made from time to time, the much-vaunted skill of "Flint Jack"

* W. Johnson's "Folk Memory."

appearing of the crudest character compared with some of these wonderful specimens of the flint-knapper's art. Ground and polished axes have also been made of cement, chalk, and burnt umber, coated with soda and then with gum shellac. One of the local knappers has made flint fish-hooks with which perch have been caught in the Little Ouse, and also a necklace of bangles from solid discs of flint—a feat of craftsmanship probably unequalled since the days of the ancient Egyptians. With at least five generations of flint-knappers in his ancestry, his skill is, however, the more understandable.

We have neither facts nor traditions as to the extent of the gunflint industry in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but during the Napoleonic wars it afforded employment for about 200 men at Brandon, and some fifty years later knapping was also carried on at Salisbury, Icklingham and Trowse, among other places. In 1887, one of the Snares, who was then eighty years of age, stated that he could remember the time when from his workshop alone no less than 10 tons of finished gunflints were turned out every week, and carriage paid to the amount of £30. About the time of Waterloo he had heard

that the knappers played pitch and toss with guinea pieces. This Mr. Snare supplied the Turkish Government with eleven million gunflints shortly before the outbreak of the Crimean War. The introduction of percussion caps in 1835 quickly caused a reduction in the number of men employed, and by 1846 there were only about 100. There was at that time great rivalry between the East India Company, which had a factory at Brandon and supplied India and the Orient, and the Brandon Gunflint Company, which had a capital of 138 shares of £25 each and supplied the British Government. A quarter of a century later the number employed had been further reduced to between twenty and thirty, though in 1887 it was said that there were between thirty and forty of all ages. Nowadays the number of knappers is under twenty, and it seems that the time cannot be far distant when flint-lock guns will be superseded by breech-loaders, with cartridges specially prepared for the tropics. When the demand ceases, the supply will, of course, do the same, and the oldest industry in England will then probably be numbered amongst bygone handicrafts.

CHAPTER VII

MONASTIC REMAINS AND CHURCHES

IN the centuries that have passed since monasteries, friaries, nunneries and hermitages were common in Norfolk and Suffolk, when the members of the various religious orders were poor individually but rich collectively, and a great deal of the agricultural and social as well as religious life of the towns and villages centred in the great religious houses, the hands of time and of the vandals have dealt hardly with the remains of these one-time flourishing establishments. Their walls have been quarries for building material, as hundreds of houses where the native flints and imported stone jostle each other still bear witness ; noble churches, in which for centuries the rites of religion were performed, now stand open to the sky, filled with nettles, or are even used to shelter stock or agricultural produce ; while in some cases heaps of grass-grown rubble alone testify to the fact that here was a site of man's activities for many generations. Of Nor-

folk, Sir Henry Spelman wrote to John Speed that the people were "apt to good Letters, adorning Religion with more Churches and Monasteries than any Shire of England"—there were 124 religious houses before the Reformation—and Suffolk was almost equally renowned.

Yet the remains of many of these buildings, magnificent as they were in the heyday of their glory, are often sadly disappointing. The late Norman west front, with its beautiful arcading and mouldings, of the church of the Cluniac priory at Castleacre is the most striking monastic ruin in Norfolk. There also is a fine gatehouse built in the reign of Henry VII., with two arched entrances. The most famous shrine in Norfolk was that of the Augustinian priory at Walsingham, which was visited by pilgrims from all parts of Europe, including several of the kings of England. When Erasmus visited the shrine in 1511 he said, "You will say it is the seat of the gods, so bright and shining as it is all over with jewels, gold and silver." The remains of the priory include an early Perpendicular gateway, the refectory with an early Decorated west window, and the east window of the church. Associated with this priory is the restored wayside chapel in the

Decorated style at Houghton-in-the-Dale. It is generally called the "Shoe House" because of a tradition that here the pilgrims to Walsingham left their shoes and walked the remainder of the journey barefooted. The "Holy Rood of Bromholm" was preserved at Bromholm Priory, Bacton, of which, as with so many other monasteries, the chief portion remaining is the gatehouse, the lower part of which is Norman and the upper Perpendicular. Close by Sheringham are the remains of the Augustinian priory founded early in the thirteenth century by Lady Isabel de Cressy. The west end of the church and a small tower are of little interest. Almost the only remaining portion of four great monasteries in Lynn is the tall steeple of the Greyfriars. Ruins of the Cluniac priory at Thetford are extensive and range from Norman to Perpendicular, the late fifteenth century "Abbey Gate" being the best preserved. This was one of the five largest monasteries of the order in England, and in Norfolk was only exceeded in size by those of Norwich and Walsingham. The ground plan of the church may still be traced, but the ruins of the domestic part of the priory are very fragmentary. At Binham the Norman nave of the church of the



CASTLECRE PRIORY, NORFOLK

Founded by William de Warrenne. The finest monastic relic in Norfolk, with one of the best late Norman west fronts in England. On the right is the prior's lodge



Benedictine priory is still used as the parish church, although the central tower, chancel and transepts are in ruins, as is also the Early English gateway which is called the "Jail Gate." The west front of the church is a fine example of Early English work. Wymondham Church was originally that of a Benedictine priory, as was also Norwich Cathedral, which still has one of the most beautiful cloisters in England, while St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich, was the nave of the church of the Dominicans, and is probably the finest example of a friars' church still existing.

As with the Norfolk monasteries, the best-preserved remains of those in Suffolk consist of the gateways. The Abbey Gate at Bury was the chief entrance to the famous Benedictine abbey. It was completed about 1347 and is a very pure specimen of the Decorated style ornamented with rich tracery. It replaced one which was destroyed by the townspeople in 1327 during an assault on the monastery. Among the carvings on its richly ornamented west front is one of a bull worried by dogs. Equally attractive, though more massive in construction and simple in decoration, in accordance with the architecture of the period, the Norman tower, described by

some as the "gateway of the churchyard," and by others as "the great gate of the Church," was built about the end of the eleventh century, and stood in a line with the west entrance of the Abbey Church. Its walls are nearly 6 feet thick; it is 86 feet high and 36 feet square, and Parker describes it as "a valuable specimen of rich early Norman work of the shallow character, executed with the axe, and not with the chisel," while it has also been asserted that it is "the purest original example of Norman architecture in the kingdom." It is now the bell tower of St. James' Cathedral Church. The ruins of the monastery and its church in the Botanic Gardens are fragmentary and for the most part uninteresting, and apart from the gateways the chief architectural survival is the Abbot's Bridge, a picturesque three-arched structure dating from the early part of the thirteenth century, which spans the Lark. Of the Augustinian priory at Butley near Orford the chief remaining portion is also the gateway, a flint and stone structure, erected early in the fourteenth century, the façade of which is adorned with 35 shields arranged in five rows of seven each, the shields alternating with carved *fleurs-de-lys*. In contrast to most of the



monastic establishments of East Anglia, which are generally situated on low ground near streams, the Premonstratensian abbey at Leiston was on the crest of a hill. It was founded in 1182 but erected on the present site shortly after 1389. The existing ruins are those of the chancel, transepts and part of the north chancel aisle of the church, a fine west window of the refectory, and the remains of an octangular brick tower which probably flanked an entrance to the cloisters. In the ivy-clad ruins of the Franciscan priory at Dunwich, the most interesting features are two gateways in the outside wall. The crypt of the prior's hall which formed part of the Augustinian priory at Ixworth is part of a modern house; the refectory of the Augustinian priory at Herringfleet is used as a barn, and a double crypt forms part of some dwellings; while Clare Abbey, a house of the Austin Friars, was converted into a private dwelling-house about 1604 by Sir Thomas Barnardiston. Portions of the walls are all that remain of the Cistercian abbey at Sibton, and hardly as much can be said of other monasteries in the county. Redlingfield Church was originally attached to a Benedictine nunnery founded in 1120, and that at Letheringham to a

small Augustinian priory of which a fourteenth century gatehouse remains. The monastic remains in Ipswich are disappointing, and of the College of Secular Canons founded by Cardinal Wolsey, the small Tudor gateway of brick, which probably gave access to the quadrangle, is all that survives.

Contrasting with the monasteries, which as the homes of communities were necessarily built near a water supply, and therefore usually on low ground near the alluvium of the river valleys, the parish churches were generally on the higher ground, though there are a few noteworthy exceptions.

Probably many of the churches are built on sites having special associations in pre-Christian days. I know of no Norfolk or Suffolk instance of a church having been erected so as to enclose a barrow or burial-mound within the churchyard, that at Old Hunstanton having been proved by excavation to be of glacial origin, though Dr. A. Jessopp thought it might have been used as a moot-hill. Pakenham Church is on a prehistoric site, as numerous flint implements have been found around it. Caistor is within the earth-works surrounding a Roman town; Tasburgh is

just outside a Roman camp occupying a strong position above the village ; Burgh (near Bealings) stands on the top of a steep bank which Dr. Raven identified as the site of the *Combretonium* of Antonine's " Itinerary " ; Stowlangtoft is within an entrenchment in which Roman coins have been discovered ; and Earl Stonham on the site of a crematorium, cinerary urns having been found all over the churchyard. Monoliths or ancient standing stones in a churchyard usually evidence special associations for the site prior to the building of the church. It is possible that examples may be found in the glacial boulders in the churchyards of Holme-next-the-Sea and St. Mary's, Bungay. Many churches were also built in strong defensive positions, frequently difficult of access from the village, and probably erected on a site utilised by prehistoric man, as it is well known that pre-Roman communities " dwelt on the moorlands and elevated downlands." Both Norfolk and Suffolk contain many examples. In the former county, Old Lakenham, Bodney, Haddiscoe, Ingoldisthorpe and Belaugh may be mentioned ; and in the latter, Stoke-by-Nayland, Herringfleet, Beccles, Blythburgh, Icklingham All Saints and Aldeburgh.

That architecture is the mirror of its age is especially true of the ecclesiastical buildings of East Anglia, whether we consider the fine Cathedral of Norwich or the humblest village church. Unlike the French churches, which are usually in one style, these churches often show the evolution of architecture during the passage of 400 years, from the massive simplicity of the Norman period, when the great churches like Norwich and Wymondham served the religious purposes of monasteries, through the thirteenth century, when secular cathedrals like Lincoln and Salisbury were erected, to the fifteenth century, when architecture evidenced the triumph of the pious layman, and the princely wealth of the mercantile orders raised the noblest piles in almost every town. Such is the church of St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, which rises above the Market Place and points to the wealth and piety of a great municipality. The Marshland churches of the Walpoles, the Terringtons, Walsoken, and West Walton, and the church of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, bear similar testimony. "Mediæval architecture," as Prince Kropotkin said, "attained its grandeur—not only because it was a natural development of handi-

craft; not only because each building, each architectural decoration, had been devised by men who knew through experience of their own hands what artistic effects can be obtained from stone, iron, bronze, or even from simple logs and mortar; not only because each monument was a result of collective experience, accumulated in each 'mystery' or craft—it was grand because it was born out of a grand idea." "The cathedral of a mediæval city," he adds, "was intended to glorify the grandeur of the victorious city, to symbolise the union of its crafts, to express the glory of each citizen in a city of his own creation."

Most of the parish churches of Norfolk and Suffolk consist of a long and lofty nave with aisles, and a clerestory pierced by numerous large windows. The chancel is frequently a continuation of the nave divided from it internally by a richly carved and illuminated wooden rood-screen, but showing no external division, though in a number of cases the roof of the chancel is lower than that of the nave. Taking the churches of both counties as a whole there is more variety in the plans of those in Norfolk than of those in Suffolk, one feature being the transeptal chapels

which open out of the aisle, as at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, Sall, Cawston and Cley-next-the-Sea. The fact that some of the towers are isolated from the churches, as at Beccles, East Dereham, Terrington St. Clement and West Walton, would seem to indicate Italian influence. Buckenham Church tower is octagonal all the way up, and Burgh St. Peter is built in a series of steps each of the four square storeys diminishing as they ascend. Spires are uncommon in both counties, but are more frequently found in Suffolk than in Norfolk.

Babingley Church, which is dedicated to St. Felix, is traditionally claimed to be on the site of the first place of Christian worship erected in this country in the seventh century by Bishop Felix, the Burgundian missionary, and Shernborne is said to be the second. Fritcham and the two Suffolk parishes of Flixton and Felixstowe are considered by some antiquaries to have been named after the saint. Dr. J. C. Cox, F.S.A., has pointed out the analogies between the seven small churches of the Burnhams in an area barely four miles square, the group of South Elmham churches within an area little larger, and the various groups of seven churches in Ireland.



As no fewer than 364 Suffolk and 317 Norfolk churches were mentioned in the Domesday survey, it is probable that a considerable proportion of the present buildings were erected on the sites of older churches, and that some of these, as we have previously seen, were in situations associated with sacred rites in pagan times. This particularly applies to the round-towered churches which are such a striking feature of the ecclesiastical architecture of the two counties, there being 130 in Norfolk, forty in Suffolk, seven in Essex, and only five in other counties. The shape of the towers is due to the necessity of utilising local material, and they are consequently of flint rubble (usually stones and boulders picked from the surface of the land, or beach pebbles), combined with the desirability of saving the expense of the stone quoins which are necessary for the corners of square towers. These were difficult to procure in a district where, with the solitary exception of the carstone of north-west Norfolk, all the building-stone has to be imported.

The late Dr. Raven considered that many of these round towers were erected in compliance with a law passed by Athelstan in 937 which

necessitated the building of a bell-tower on the estate of a thane. Dr. J. C. Cox, who has examined the majority of these towers, is convinced that a fair number "are of ninth, tenth or early eleventh century construction, that the large majority are Norman, and that only a very few—a dozen at the outside—are of later date." It is probable that these towers were built in sections of about 10 or 12 feet, and that one portion was allowed to settle firmly before another was added. They vary in diameter from 10 to over 20 feet, in the thickness of the walls and in their original height, where it is possible to determine it. Eccles tower, on the Norfolk coast, which fell in the gale of January 23rd, 1895, had a wall thickness of 5 feet; West Dereham, which is built of carstone, is 4 feet thick, and Bramfield 5 feet thick, leaving only a space of 10 feet 10 inches in the centre. In some cases the towers are so devoid of all ornament or character that it is impossible to fix even an approximate date for their erection.

Among the Suffolk towers, Bungay Holy Trinity, South Elmham All Saints, Syleham and Wissett have indications of high antiquity. Six of those in the county had octagonal belfries

added in the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, as have also forty-three of those in Norfolk. Bramfield Church, Suffolk, and Little Snoring Church, Norfolk, are now detached from the towers. The former has no staircase, even though it was used as a belfry. Sometimes the raising of the towers was continued in a circular fashion, and in a few cases larger belfry windows were inserted in the old masonry. Canon Raven has noted that in Suffolk these towers are more common as the coast is approached, possibly marking the increase in the Scandinavian population. The tower of Ramsholt Church is oval in shape, and is said to contain brickwork similar to that of the churches of Padua, which may account for the suggestion that it was originally a Roman watch-tower.

The tower at Little Saxham has in its upper portion windows set in arches of beautiful design and finish—built when the Norman influence was at its height. Herringfleet Church has a well-preserved, fine, tall tower, with its upper portion ornamented by circular Norman windows, enclosing double triangular arches, while that of Blundeston is so plain and undecorated and slender that it looks almost like a chimney.

At Fritton the foundations of the tower are older than the tower itself, which is undecorated except for a few windows of no particular beauty. Of the Norfolk round-towered churches that at Haddiscoe is considered the finest. It stands upon a hill, and has a tower a little higher than the average 60 feet, with its upper portion decorated in a similar way to that of Herringfleet.

Most of the 1,221 churches contain special features of interest; it is doubtful whether in any similar area in the country so many fine examples can be found. They have been the subject of many works, and in a brief account such as this it is impossible to mention any but a few of the more striking. Apart from the round towers, many of the churches are remarkable for the beautiful flint and stone panelling termed flush-work, (which is also a feature of the porches of the Perpendicular period), for their elaborately carved roofs, screens and bench-ends, and richly decorated fonts.

Much of the Norman work is in advance of that of other parts of England; even the little village churches are remarkable for their elegant and rich details. The west front of Castle Rising Church was considered by Mr. E. M. Beloe to be





“perhaps the most elaborate specimen of the late Norman that exists.” In south-east Norfolk there is a wonderful group of Norman doorways, noticeable for lacking, except in a few instances, the tympanum which is a feature in many other counties. Norman fonts with square bowls and human figures are found at Burnham Deepdale and Fincham, and with interlaced ornaments at Toftrees, Shernborne, Sculthorpe and Breckles. Among the finest examples of work of this period are Norwich Cathedral, the west front and north tower of St. Margaret’s, Lynn, Binham Priory Church, Wymondham “Abbey Church,” Attleborough, Tilney All Saints, Walsoken, South Lopham, Hales, Gillingham, Heckingham, Fritton, Little Saxham, Lakenheath, Westhall and Polstead, while the nave at St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, and the churches of Santon Downham, Newbourne, Wissington and Huntingfield are good examples of Transitional Norman.

There was considerable building activity in the thirteenth century, and fine examples of the work of this period occur at West Walton, in the west front of Binham, in the chancel of Burgh-next-Aylsham, which is of exceptional beauty, Hunston, Pakenham, the tower at Rumburgh,

the sacristy at Mildenhall, the chancels at Exning, Hawstead, Little Blakenham, Kesgrave, Troston and Freckenham, and portions of many other edifices. A considerable number of Early English fonts also remain, those with an octagonal bowl of Purbeck marble and simple arcaded panels, supported by a central and eight smaller shafts, being almost peculiar to Norfolk.

The prosperity which agriculture generally, and the production of wool in particular, linen and woollen weaving, brought to East Anglia in the fourteenth century is reflected in the church-building activities of the inhabitants. Snettisham is a noteworthy example, with the west front in imitation of that of Peterborough Cathedral; while the aisles of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, the tower of Worstead, the chancel of St. Margaret's, Lynn, Elsing, the chancel, nave and south aisle at Woolpit, the nave and aisles at Orford, and the chancel, nave and part of the tower at Dennington are good examples of the work of the period. Many building projects were stopped temporarily, and in a few cases permanently, by the Black Death of 1348—9.

Developing gradually from the Decorated style, towards the end of the fourteenth century, the

Perpendicular continued in use till about the middle of the sixteenth century, a period during which some of the finest churches in East Anglia were erected. In Norfolk the most notable churches wholly or partly in this style are St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, Sall, Cawston, Walpole St. Peter and St. Andrew, Cley-next-the-Sea, Swaffham, North Walsham, Terrington St. Clement, Lynn, St. Nicholas, Fakenham, Dersingham and Cromer ; and in Suffolk, Lavenham, Long Melford, Woodbridge, Blythburgh, Southwold, Beccles, Hessel, Bungay St. Mary, Denston, Great Waldingfield, Hadleigh, Bury St. James and St. Mary, Lowestoft St. Margaret, Eye, Sudbury St. Gregory and St. Peter, and Ipswich St. Matthew, St. Lawrence and St. Mary-at-Key. Some of the quatrefoil windows in the clerestories undoubtedly date from this period, though usually attributed to the Decorated. The clerestories themselves often overtop the chancel, and a window is found over the chancel arch, a peculiarity almost confined to East Anglia. At King's Lynn, the Chapel of Our Lady or "Red Mount Chapel" is a beautiful example of Perpendicular work.

Many of the fine western towers are of fifteenth century date, and are peculiar in possessing

“sound-holes”—square openings filled with tracery in the stage below the bell-chamber. Statues of Saints Jerome, Ambrose, Gregory and Augustine sometimes appear as pinnacles on the corners of the towers, and occasionally the Evangelists occupy a similar position. Stone spires are rare and usually occur in the western parts.

Churches thatched with reed are still by no means uncommon, and at Irstead and Stokesby the thatch shows through the rafters. Early in the nineteenth century at least 270 Norfolk churches had thatched roofs and over fifty still remain. Most of the wonderfully carved and painted rood-screens date from the latter part of the fifteenth century or the beginning of the sixteenth, but a few are as old as the fourteenth century.

Norfolk and Suffolk are renowned for the number, beauty and variety of their Perpendicular fonts, usually octagonal, with the panels of the bowl much enriched, culminating in the Seven Sacraments fonts, of which thirty-one are extant, and twenty-nine of these are in East Anglia. Sometimes the font was mounted on several steps, and the font cover was constructed of lofty tabernacle work. Two of the four font

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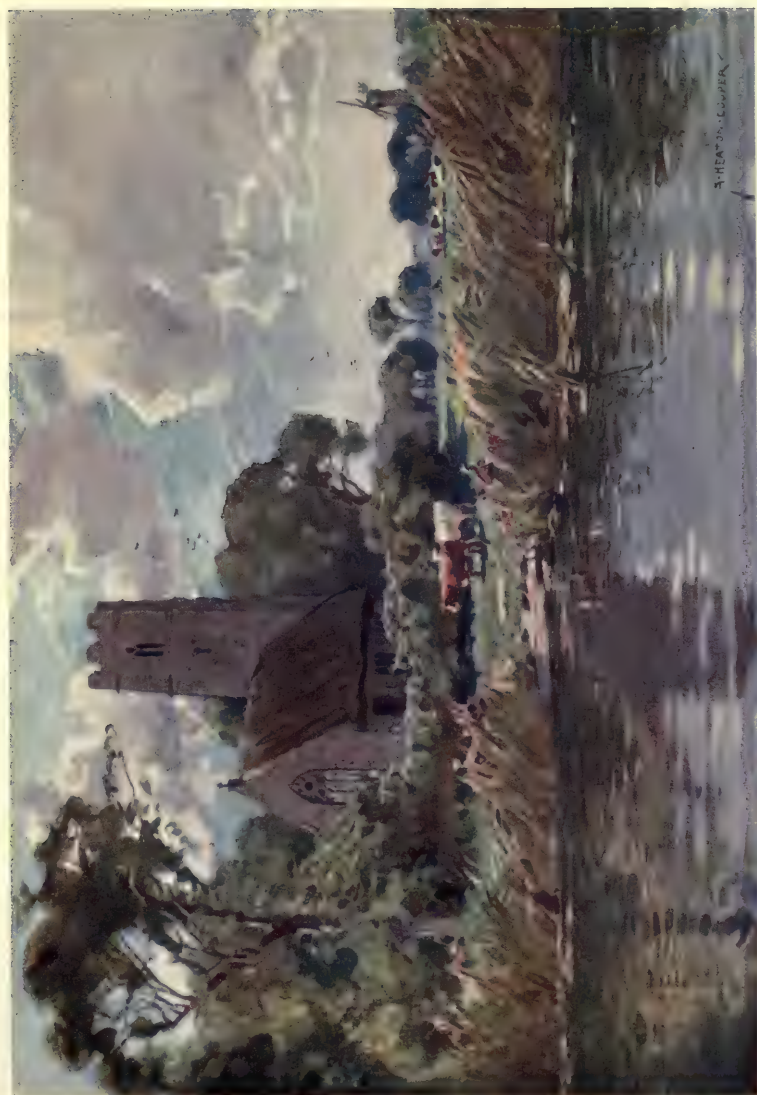
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IRSTEAD CHURCH, NORFOLK

On a low hill overlooking the River Ant. Most of it dates from about 1400, and from the interior the thatched roof shows through the rafters

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W. H. COOPER

canopies of England are in Norfolk, one at Trunch dating from about 1500, and that in St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, from half a century earlier. Though there are a few good stone effigies, the churches are more remarkable for their brasses, two at St. Margaret's, Lynn, both of Flemish workmanship, being the finest in the kingdom.

Norfolk stands pre-eminent for the number and occasional beauty of the pre-Reformation benches and bench-ends which still exist, chiefly in the north-eastern part of the county. The old seats of Wiggenhall St. Mary are almost perfect in their original fifteenth century condition, and those of Fressingfield are unsurpassed for beauty of design and perfection of execution. The wooden roofs of the fourteenth century were good, but those of the fifteenth century tended more and more towards richness of detail, so that some of those in Suffolk are considered the best in the country. That of St. Mary's, Bury, is said to be "the most perfect, and one of the finest specimens, if not the finest, in the world, of open timber-work," and the double hammerbeam roof erected at Knapton in 1503, with three tiers of angels with expanded wings, is the best of the Late Perpendicular period in England.

CHAPTER VIII

EARTHWORKS, CASTLES AND MANOR HOUSES

WHEN the shape of earthworks is known to be a fallacious test of the age in which they were constructed, and the old assumption that all of them were made by either Romans or Danes has been proved equally untenable, more general acceptance will be found for Professor Windle's statement that "There is only one way of dating an earthwork, and that is by trenching and excavating it, and examining the objects thus brought to light." Unfortunately, few of the numerous earthworks in Norfolk or Suffolk have been scientifically examined, and the provisional allocation of an approximate date may be disproved by subsequent excavation. It may, however, be taken as certain, owing to analogies with similar remains in other parts of the country, that the great ditches and ramparts which run considerable distances in a more or less straight line, are prehistoric. This would include the Launditch, the Devil's Dyke at Narborough, the

Fendyke, Bunn's Bank, near Attleborough, and the Devil's Dyke on Garboldisham Heath, in Norfolk; the "Black Ditches" on Cavenham Heath and the dyke on Outney Common, Bungay, in Suffolk, while the work a quarter of a mile north of Clare Castle, and the "War-banks" of Cockfield and Lawshall must also be considered pre-Roman.

Of Roman earthwork, the walled town of Caistor is the most important, but there are also traces of camps at Brancaster, Ashill, Tasburgh, Burgh near Woodbridge, and Brettenham (Suffolk). Quadrangular enclosures at Stiffkey, Ovington, Weeting, and Old Buckenham, and roughly oval enclosures at Holkham, Hunworth, South Creak, Stalham, Wymondham, Warham, Fakenham Magna, Bramfield, Woolpit, and South Elmham St. Cross have been ascribed to every period from prehistoric to Norman, but only the spade can determine which particular conjecture is correct in each instance.

With the "mote castles," or mounds with courts, there seems a greater element of certainty. In Norfolk there are thirteen, at Earsham, Wormegay, Narborough, North Elmham, Horningtoft, New Buckenham, Denton, Mileham, Hors-

ford, Norwich, Castle Rising, Castleacre and Thetford; and in Suffolk five, at Orford, Bungay, Clare, Eye and Haughley. These have also at various times been referred to different epochs; their Danish origin being strenuously held at one period, while at another the proofs of their Anglo-Saxon date seemed incontestible. At varying intervals, local antiquaries have maintained that they were British. Mr. G. T. Clark's "Mediæval Military Architecture in England" was held to have settled the question of their Anglo-Saxon origin, but a more recent school of antiquaries has shown that this was based on a misinterpretation of the meaning of "burh," and has argued forcibly for their construction by the Normans, which may be considered the prevalent belief.

Of those mentioned, Thetford is the largest earthwork in East Anglia, the mound having a vertical height of 81 feet (100 feet, measured up the slope) and a circumference of nearly 1,000 feet at the base. It is unique in having a double line of ramparts guarding it. That there was in Norman times some kind of building on it is shown by the fact that the Castle was dismantled in 1172—3, as proved by an entry in the Pipe Roll.



Remains of Norman castles of stone still stand on the mounds at New Buckenham, Norwich, Castle Rising, Castleacre, Eye, Orford, Clare and Haughley. The fine keep at Norwich has been restored and now forms the most attractive part of the Castle Museum buildings; at Orford, the keep, which was built about 1165 and was 100 feet high and 55 feet in diameter, is still well-preserved. Haughley Castle is a typical example of a simple Norman fortress consisting of a circular mound and a courtyard, in shape roughly that of a horseshoe, with a rectangular enclosure added, as was usual when extra accommodation was required. Two low circular towers and some massive fragments of the keep remain at Bungay, but these are the ruins of the castle which Roger Bigod, fifth Earl of Norfolk, obtained a licence to crenellate in 1294, the older building, with Framlingham, having been dismantled in 1174 as a punishment for Hugh Bigod's participation in the revolt of the Earl of Leicester in the preceding year. "Not in size, but in completeness of plan, state of preservation and elaboration of architectural features," the keep at Castle Rising is said by Mr. H. Avray Tipping to be "the most valuable of the surviving ruins of the

quadrangular keeps that arose in England under Henry II." It occupies a prominent position on the ridge that faces the Wash and slopes down to the marshland of the Babingley river, and is surrounded by vast earthworks. The keep is a fine example of the rectangular type, much resembling Rochester in size and plan, and like Norwich and Dover having a fore-building for the great stairway and vestibule that led to the hall on the first floor. Norwich is somewhat earlier than Rising, which was probably contemporary with the ornate parish church to the north. Henham Moat Yards, four miles from Halesworth, and "Mettingham Mount" in Ilketchall St. John also have claims to be considered Norman.

The Norman castle with its protective earthworks was a break in the evolution of the fortified dwelling-houses of the wealthy and powerful. The Saxons appear to have ignored masonry for defence except in rare cases where Roman walls were utilised, the thane's *aula* being generally oak framed, protected by the nature of the site, improved by a wet moat, dry ditch and timber palisade. Largely for purposes of security in a lawless age, and partly for the

necessity of drainage on the great clay areas, moats were commonly dug. Of these there are no less than 297 in Norfolk, and probably a larger number in Suffolk. Some of these, which never appear to have been used for buildings constructed of masonry, appear to have originated in Saxon times. Most of the surviving specimens of Norman architecture—other than ecclesiastical—were primarily erected for military purposes. In France, the stone-built keep, often rectangular, was not introduced until the middle of the eleventh century, and the Conqueror, who brought the idea to England and built the Tower of London, was followed by many of his barons.

Among the castles of later date the outer walls of Framlingham are extremely well preserved, and the large area enclosed renders it impressive, though in this respect it receives no aid from its position. The courtyard is enclosed by a massive wall 44 feet high with thirteen embattled towers, but the remains of the buildings formerly contained therein are scanty and uninteresting. One of the latest portions of the castle is the gate tower which was built by Thomas Howard in the reign of Henry VII., and dating from the same period are some Perpen-

dicular windows, corbels and the ornamental chimneys on some of the embattled towers.

The famous Sir John Fastolf was the builder of Caister Castle, near Yarmouth, really a fortified manor-house, between 1443 and 1453. It was originally a moat-surrounded quadrangle, one of the oldest brick buildings in England, of which the chief remaining portions are a lofty circular tower with turret, the greater part of the west and north walls, and portions of the east wall which terminated in loop-holed towers. It subsequently became one of the homes of the Pastons. Mettingham and Wingfield Castles were both originally fortified manor-houses. There are extensive ruins of the former, the gateway, a massive square building with corner turrets, alone being well preserved. It was erected in its present form by Sir John de Norwich, permission having been obtained as a result of his prowess as vice-admiral at Sluys. Wingfield Castle was built by Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, about 1370. The outer walls, pierced with mullioned windows, and the gatehouse with octagonal and semi-octagonal staircase turrets, are well preserved, but the buildings which formerly abutted on the courtyard are gone.

The moat covers about an acre, and the area it encloses is half an acre larger. In the gateway are the original oaken doors, and though the drawbridge has been replaced by a more stable structure, the grooves in which the portcullis worked may yet be seen. Over the eastern moat is a lichen-covered drawbridge for foot-passengers, still, after the lapse of centuries, in working order. In the vast dining-hall, the window embrasures show that the walls are 3 feet thick, and this room also has an open fireplace with fire-dogs, and the old decorated spit-rack from the kitchen.

Norfolk and Suffolk both possess a considerable number of ancient mansions notable not only for their architectural beauty and their associations, but also for the picturesqueness of their setting. Most of them are situated on low ground, often near a stream. While the plan, and method of using the materials, may be considered native to the soil, the product of local craftsmen building with local materials in a manner traditional to the locality, the effect of alien immigration is more obvious in the Eastern Counties than in other parts of England. The Dutch, who came over in the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, and the

Huguenot settlers of the seventeenth century, have left a decided impress on the domestic architecture of Norfolk and Suffolk. Both in Norwich and King's Lynn many of the old houses are quadrangular in plan with a central courtyard, approached by a passage-way under the front of the house, often entered by an elaborate doorway. Building in brick was also popularised by the Flemings who settled in Norfolk and Suffolk in considerable numbers in the fifteenth century. Hitherto bricks had been largely imported from the Low Countries, but the Flemings utilised the plentiful supplies of brick-earth, and a local brickmaking industry was soon flourishing. At Little Wenham Hall, Flemish bricks were used in the time of Henry III., but there is little doubt that they were imported. This is the earliest known example of their use in this country. To foreign influences we also owe the widespread use of crow-stepped and shaped gables; steeply-pitched roofs, with glazed or unglazed pantiles, or thatched with reed or straw; pediments of cemented brickwork, or occasionally stone, over doors and windows; double dormer windows; a plentiful use of brick; and wrought-iron wall-ties in the form of initials or dates.

The number of existing country houses erected before the reign of Henry VIII. is few, and it was not until after the Wars of the Roses that houses evolved from the fortress type with moat and drawbridge into the country mansion. Many of the older moated houses in Norfolk are built of flint. One of those least affected is Mannington Hall, a plain embattled house of square flints built by William Lumner in 1451. At each corner of the south front is an octagonal tower, and these contain the original lancet windows, but the others were inserted about 1560. Another moated and castellated house of flint is Hunstanton Hall, some of which was built during the latter part of the fifteenth century. It contains a splendid oak staircase, and some of the rooms are almost unaltered since they were built, containing much of their original furniture. Elsing Hall is also one of the old flint manor-houses, and has perhaps the only open timber roof in the county. This dates from the latter half of the fifteenth century, as do the porch and old chapel, and was probably the work of Sir John Hastings, who was here from 1436 to 1470. Oxnead Hall, once the home of the Pastons, has walls 3 feet thick, and is only one

room deep, with a passage running its whole length.

Half-timber work is fairly common in Suffolk, but less so in Norfolk, and differs little from that in other parts of the country, except for somewhat lighter timbers and more delicate mouldings. Between the studs the space was filled with clay and chopped straw, with hazel sticks locally known as "rizzes" from the Saxon word *hris*, meaning branches of trees or brushwood. Brick-nogging was sometimes used between the studs, as appears in cottages at Cockfield, and in the timber-framed gable-end with herringbone brick filling at Parham Hall near Framlingham. The brick house and stone-panelled gateway appear to have been erected by Sir Christopher Willoughby between 1498 and 1529. Other good examples of timber-framed buildings are Thurston Hall (1607); Swan's Hall, Hawkedon; Alston Court, Nayland, with its central courtyard, "solar" with beautifully-carved chestnut roof, and dining-room with richly moulded oak beams, and fine oak panelling dated 1631; Gifford's Hall, Wickhambrook, probably erected by Clement Heigham between 1480 and 1521, with four panelled rooms of the sixteenth century, and one

of the Queen Anne style; and a fine building at Kersey, now used as cottages and dating from the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century, with attractive bays, gables and plasterwork, including a raised *fleur-de-lys* and a Tudor rose.

In the examples previously mentioned the timber-work and clay-lump are exposed, but subsequently lime plaster was used to cover both. Then in Suffolk, the outside surface was combed or lined with a stick in various patterns, and this treatment is occasionally seen in Norfolk. Recessed portions were sometimes brightly coloured, and both patterns and colours vary in the districts in which different craftsmen worked. In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries hair was mixed with the plaster, and this gave rise to the ornamental plaster-work known as "pargetting," a term which includes the plaster ceilings of Elizabethan and Jacobean times. In its simpler form this consisted of solitary ornaments, or moulded oval panels encircling a date. Thorington Hall, Stoke-by-Nayland, with its massive six-shafted chimney-stack, oriel window, seventeenth century chimney-piece with original Dutch tiles still *in situ*, and two fine staircases, is a good example of external

plaster-work. Other good specimens are to be found in Ixworth, Framlingham and Stanstead (dated 1651). Barnham Broom Old Hall, says Willins, "is a long building under a span roof, with an important porch three stories high projecting well out into the garden inviting entrance thereto ; its crow-stepped gables and fine chimney-stacks, its walls pierced with windows of all sizes and shapes, and in all sorts of odd positions, entirely unsymmetrical." Many of the ceilings are beautifully carved in wood ; the stairs still have the wicket-gate to keep dogs from the sleeping apartments ; and the plaster ceiling of the State room, dating from 1614, is a marvellous piece of work.

The fine brickwork for which East Anglia is particularly noted is especially shown in the elaborately designed chimneys. It is difficult to travel far in Norfolk or Suffolk without seeing a good specimen. One of the oldest examples of domestic brickwork in the country is Snowre Hall, Fordham, which dates from about 1450. It had originally but two rooms on each floor, and a buttress at each corner, with a battlemented rectangular turret, which also acted as an entrance porch, on the west. In the centre of the house,

running from top to bottom, is a well-contrived hiding-hole. Another fine Tudor mansion of brick is Oxburgh Hall, which is a castellated building surrounded by a wide moat spanned by a bridge, which leads to an entrance tower 80 feet in height. Its erection was begun in 1482 by Sir Edmund Bedingfeld, and his direct descendant still resides there. Over the gateway is a beautiful old room called the King's Chamber, where Henry VII. is said to have slept, quite in its original state, and hung with Gothic tapestry of the period. Queen Elizabeth was also among its noted visitors. Wolterton Manor House at East Barsham, partly ruined and now used as a farmhouse, is a wonderful example of ornamental brickwork. Both this and Great Snoring parsonage, built by Sir John Shelton, have the terracotta ornamentation which is so typical of the Norfolk style of manor house. Wiveton Hall and Stiffkey Hall are also excellent types of old houses. The latter is quadrangular, with round towers at the corners and circular stairs in the turrets, and was finished by Sir Nathaniel Bacon in 1604. It tallies in a remarkable way with the "ideal house" of Sir Francis Bacon, Sir Nathaniel's elder half-brother. Blickling Hall is a red-brick,

quadrangular building with oriel windows and an ornamented porch, begun by Sir John Hobart in 1620. It is quadrangular in plan with two open courts in the centre, and though the moat has been drained it is still spanned by a double-arched bridge. The library is 127 feet long, and the ceiling is decorated with scrolls and wonderful figures in plaster-work. The staircase has a width of 7 feet 8 inches, with a single ascent to the first landing, after which the stair branches off, one for the ascent the other for the descent. Other houses noted for their brickwork are Gedding Hall, which was rebuilt in the fifteenth century by the Chamberlaynes; West Stow Hall, with gatehouse built in the time of Henry VIII., and covered way leading therefrom to the hall, semi-circular arcaded cloister, and some famous wall paintings; Gifford's Hall, Stoke-by-Nayland, with gatehouse; Gifford's Hall, Wickhambrook, with quadrangular court; Little Hautbois Hall (dated 1555), with elaborate dormer windows, pinnacles, and octagonal shafted chimney-stacks; and Middleton Towers, a lofty brick and stone gate-tower, flanked at each angle by octagonal turrets, which dates from about 1470, and probably led into a moated quadrangle. Hengrave Hall was

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE, NORFOLK

Purchased with the estate in 1861 for King Edward VII. when Prince of Wales



built about 1525 by Sir Thomas Kytson, a wealthy London merchant, of white brick with stone dressings. The south front and richly-ornamented gatehouse are well preserved. In Rushbrooke Hall, where Queen Elizabeth twice held her court, there is still a room in which the furniture remains as it was at the time of the Queen's visit. Coldham Hall, Stanningfield, was built in 1574 by Robert Rokewode, the father of Ambrose Rokewode, who was executed for his share in the Gunpowder Plot. Melford Hall and Kentwell Hall are Elizabethan moated houses at Long Melford. Queen Elizabeth was entertained at the former in 1578 by Sir William Cordell. Helmingham Hall is a quadrangular moated house with a drawbridge which is still drawn up every night, and Seckford Hall, near Woodbridge, was built by Sir Thomas Seckford, Master of Bequests in the reign of Elizabeth. In both counties there is a number of fine Elizabethan houses, far too many to mention in detail.

Porches are not remarkable features of the domestic architecture of East Anglia, but there is a good one at the Grange, Chelsworth, dated 1689 in the wood lintel and in the pargetting above, probably built by Edmund Jenney and

his wife Dorothy. In the neighbouring village of Bildeston is an equally interesting porch, dating from the latter part of the fifteenth or early sixteenth century. At Stutton and Erwar-ton Hall there are elaborate Jacobean gateways, and Roos Hall, Beccles, erected about 1583, is noteworthy for the wide staircase, of which each step is made of a solid block of oak.

Good ironwork is also to be found in a number of villages. Ornamental wrought iron standards and railing exist at Hawstead Place, and helped to form a protecting fence round the outer bank of the moat, and certainly date from not later than Elizabethan times. Some of these rails now stand round a tree planted in the village in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee.

Among the more notable of the comparatively modern country mansions are Raynham Hall, built by Inigo Jones in 1636, and Holkham Hall, built between 1735 and 1750. The latter stands in a park nine miles in circumference, is built of bricks made of brick-earth from Burnham Norton, and has a length of 344 feet. Houghton was erected by Sir Robert Walpole about the same time, and contains a marble hall forming a cube of 40 feet. Sandringham House was bought by

King Edward VII. when Prince of Wales in 1861 and is now the residence of King George V. It stands in a park of about 300 acres. Ickworth was built between 1768 and 1803 by the 4th Earl of Bristol ; Elveden Hall was reconstructed by the Maharajah Duleep Singh and the Earl of Iveagh ; Barton Hall dates from early in the seventeenth century ; and Hardwick House was rebuilt in 1681, but has been much altered.

CHAPTER IX

THE TOWNS

FROM the earliest times, settlements were dependent on the availability of a good supply of water, and this was one of the prime factors in determining the position of the present towns. Like most of the ancient important towns of the country, Norwich and Ipswich were situated at the head of navigable estuaries, the *viks*, from which the Vikings—those who haunted a bay, creek or fjord—derived their name. In addition to the importance of such positions as ports, and as natural outlets for the trade of the settlements along the river-valleys connected with the estuaries, they were on the natural routes of the earliest highways, which crossed the rivers at the lowest points at which fords, bridges or ferries were feasible. Ipswich is chiefly built on the northern slope of the valley of the Gipping, a freshwater river which merges into the salt-water Orwell ; Norwich is on a hilly promontory almost surrounded by loops of the rivers Wensum and



WOODBIDGE, SUFFOLK

On the slope of a hill commanding an extensive view of the valley of the Deben



Yare, uniting below the city at the head of the ancient estuary of the Yare, which was gradually blocked by the southward creep of a shingle bank across its mouth. Similar reasons account for the situation of Woodbridge, at the head of the estuary of the Deben, on the slope of a hill commanding a beautiful and extensive view of the valley; Orford, on the west bank of the River Ore, which is the estuary of the Alde; Beccles, on a bold promontory jutting into the marshlands bordering the Waveney, which flows at the foot of the river-cliff, a town which paid a fee-farm rent of 30,000 herrings to Edward the Confessor and 60,000 to William the Conqueror; Blakeney and Wells at the head of small harbours on the north Norfolk coast; and King's Lynn on the estuary of the Great Ouse.

Only a few towns on the Norfolk and Suffolk coast owe their origin to proximity to a river-harbour and to the advantages thus afforded for fishing and trading. Felixstowe is on the nearest high ground to the mouth of the Orwell and Southwold is similarly situated with regard to the Blyth; Aldeburgh is on a narrow strip of land between the estuary of the Ore and the sea; Lowestoft on the northern slope of a harbour

connecting Oulton Broad with the sea ; Yarmouth on a narrow bank of sand and shingle dividing the River Yare from the sea. Cromer and Hunstanton are ancient fishing villages which have developed, owing to the attractiveness of their environment, into modern watering-places.

Analogous to the positions of towns at the head of estuaries are those at the junction of the valley-tract and the plain-tract of a river, where the stream ceases to be bordered by alluvial meadows which in earlier days were impassable swamps, and gravel or chalk slopes come close to the river channel, and thus facilitate the fording or bridging of the stream. Similar reasons accounted for the selection of sites just below the confluence of streams. In the former category should be placed Mildenhall on the Lark ; Brandon on the Little Ouse ; Bungay on the Waveney, on a promontory almost encircled by the river, which forms a big loop, in the wider portion of which is Outney Common ; and in the latter category, Thetford at the confluence of the Little Ouse and Thet, Eye on low ground at the confluence of two small tributaries of the Waveney, Stowmarket at the junction of three streamlets which form the river Gipping, Fakenham below the confluence

of small streams which make the Wensum, and Aylsham below those that form the Bure.

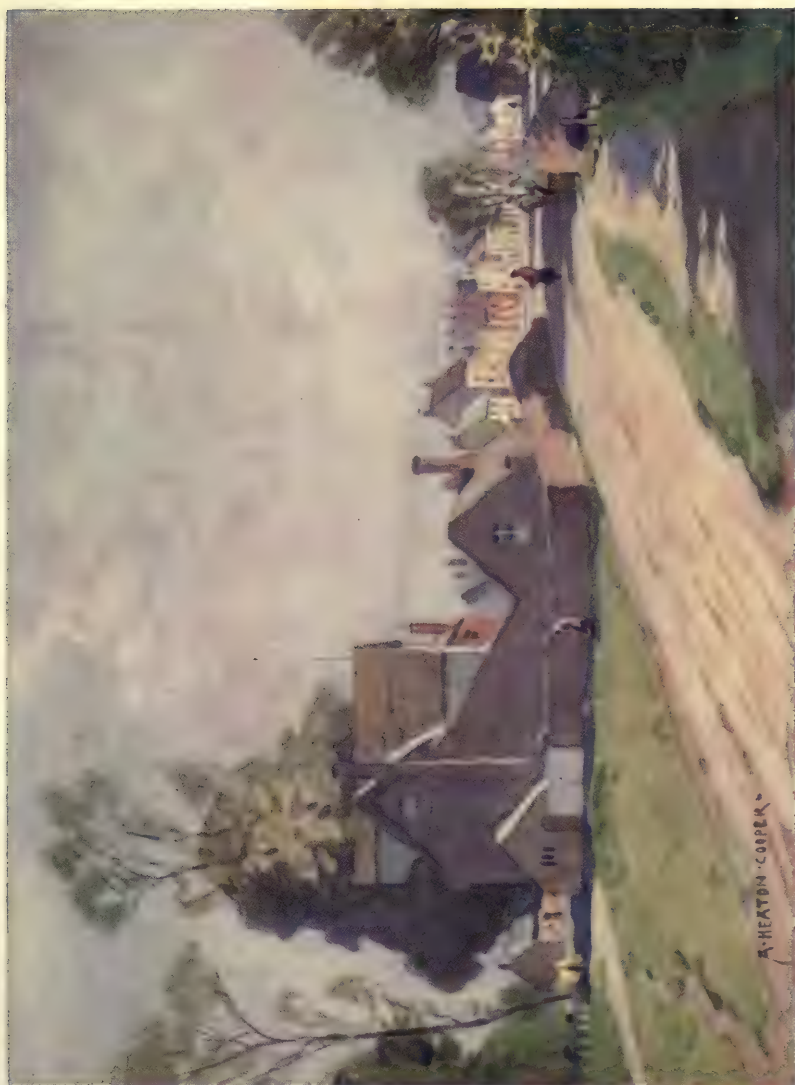
The situation of other towns seems to have been determined by the advantages accruing from elevated situations, commanding extensive views, and well-drained. To this may be due the growth of Bury St. Edmund's on a spur of the chalk rise sloping on the east towards the Lark and its tributary the Linnet, described by Defoe as "famed for its pleasant situation and wholesome air, the Montpelier of Suffolk, and perhaps of England," Lavenham on the slopes of the River Brett, a small tributary of the Stour, Swaffham and Holt.

While the selection of the original site for the settlement was probably determined by the reasons given, its subsequent growth or decay was dependent on other considerations. Villages with equal advantages of site have never developed; others have had brief periods of prosperity and have then fallen into decay. Importance in Roman times has had no bearing on the survival of a place as a populous centre. The chief relics of the work of these invaders and settlers are the walls of the town of Caistor, near Norwich, and the great camp at Burgh Castle,

overlooking the confluence of the Yare and Waveney, the walls of which, constructed of flint and bricks, enclose three sides of a rectangle of 640 feet by 370 feet, and are 14 feet high and 9 feet thick. On the east side are four solid round towers. Yet Caistor and Burgh Castle have never risen above the status of villages. Remains of villas associate the towns of Ipswich, Eye and Mildenhall with Roman settlements, and coins and pottery have been found on the sites of many existing towns. Nor did the existence of a Norman castle ensure the perpetuation of the importance of a place in succeeding centuries, for Castleacre and Castle Rising have always been villages, although the presence of remains of Norman castles in some of the surviving centres of population indicates that, even 800 years ago, the place was of sufficient importance to render desirable the erection of a stronghold. In a few cases, as at Bury St. Edmund's, Thetford and Walsingham, the presence of important monasteries undoubtedly tended to increase the prosperity of these towns in the Middle Ages, yet many monasteries, some of them, such as Bromholm with its "Holy Rood," a favourite resort of pilgrims, are now often remote from habitation,

LONG MELFORD, SUFFOLK

A delightful town situated on a small tributary of the Stour; in the fifteenth century it was an important weaving centre



A. HEATON COOPER

are situated in small villages which the passing of the monks and friars reduced to the same level as the others which had always been dependent on agriculture for their prosperity.

Both Norfolk and Suffolk owed their period of greatest prosperity to the arrival in 1336 of a large number of Flemish weavers who made these counties the centre of the woollen manufacture.

Vorstead, which was one of their chief settlements, is still, however, a village, though the splendid church is a reminder of the wealth and piety of their descendants. They, however, added greatly to the importance of Norwich, which then contained sixty parish and six conventual churches, and seem also to have materially benefited Ipswich and Bury, and to have ensured the prosperity of Hadleigh, Long Melford, Sudbury and Lavenham, "once famous for its manufacture of blue cloths" for a period of 300 years, until the introduction of water-driven and, subsequently, steam-driven looms led to the removal of the industry to the coal areas of the north. Hadleigh was called by Reyce in 1635 this "antient clothing town," and then had forty-seven tradesmen concerned in various branches of the cloth industry, against a like number in all

other trades combined. Camden, in 1586, said that Sudbury was "populous and wealthy by reason of clothing there"; and for a long time it was famous for the weaving of baize, bunting and shrouds. In many of the towns and villages of East Anglia the old houses occupied by the weavers, with long, low windows in the upper storey, are still conspicuous. The prosperity brought by weaving was not, however, permanent, for Kersey and Lindsey, which gave their names to the fabrics Kerseymere and linsey-woolsey, are now unimportant villages.

It would therefore seem that most of the present small towns owe their status to their position at convenient distances from each other, and as shopping and trading centres for the neighbourhood. A few of the old market crosses remain. In the market place at Mildenhall there is a squat hexagonal timber structure roofed with lead, said to date from the time of Henry V. The octagonal cross at Bungay, erected in 1789 and appropriated for the sale of butter and poultry, is surmounted by a dome on which stands a lead figure of Justice, weighing 18 cwt., with a gilded sword in the right hand and scales in the left. To one of its pillars hand-stocks are

still affixed. The old market cross at Wymondham was destroyed by fire in 1615, and the present one, a well-preserved structure of wood and plaster, was erected three years later (as carved figures almost hidden by the staircase indicate). It is octagonal, resting at the angles on wooden pillars with stone bases. The open area beneath the room which forms the upper storey is enclosed by iron palisading, and around the central pillar are three tiers of brick steps. On the pillars and beams are carved rude representations of tops, spindles, spoons and skewers, emblems of the wood-turnery which was for long the staple trade of the town. Writing in 1739 Blomefield said :—"Men, women and children are continually employed in this work ; an innocent employment for their maintenance, and much better than (if not so genteel as) idleness." The room, which is approached by a wooden staircase, is 25 feet in diameter, and the floor slopes downwards from the centre to the circumference. The market cross at Swaffham was built by George Walpole, third Earl of Orford, in 1783, at a cost of £400, half of which was devoted to the statue of Ceres which surmounts the leaded dome, supported by a peristyle of eight

circular stone columns. The wooden market cross at North Walsham somewhat resembles that of Mildenhall, and was built by Bishop Thirlby in 1550, while the one at New Buckenham is noted for its finely carved shields.

The history of these towns is a history of the development of local government, and investigation will disclose links with almost all its phases. An interesting survival of the Saxon folkmote is the Thinghow, the mount on which the Court of the Hundred of Thingoe was held, which still stands by the side of Northgate Road, Bury St. Edmund's, and was probably the spot where in 1644 forty persons were hanged at the instigation of Hopkins, the "witch-finder." In Norman times the barons largely controlled local affairs, and the castles are the antecedents of the shire, guild and town halls. Later the Leets had considerable power, and at Bungay a town reeve is still annually elected as chairman of the feoffees who have control of the town lands. Of the public halls which now belong to the municipalities, East Anglia has a few remarkably interesting examples. The Moot Hall at Aldeburgh, which stands on the beach at the foot of Church Hill, is half-timbered, with panels of

SWAFFHAM MARKET PLACE, NORFOLK

With Market Cross erected in 1783 at a cost of £400 by the Earl of Orford.
The charter for the market was granted in 1216



A. HEATON COOPER.

brick and flint, and is known to have been standing towards the end of the sixteenth century. It is two storeys high, and the upper room is reached by an external staircase. The most interesting of its contents are a curious stone safe and some old maps showing the effects of coast erosion. Though the hall has undergone considerable restoration some fine carved woodwork still remains. The Guildhall at Bury St. Edmund's was refronted in 1807, and consists of two large rooms on either side of a Perpendicular porch, within which is an Early English doorway, and an upper chamber at the back. This was given to the town by Jankyn Smyth, who died in 1481, and with his wife was buried in the south chancel aisle of St. Mary's Church, where a brass was placed to their memory. The motto of the town "*Sacrarium Regis Cunabula Legis*" denotes not only that the monastery was the shrine of the Martyr King Edmund, but that it was here, at a great meeting of barons and clergy, that it was decided to demand of King John the ratification of Magna Charta.

The front of the Guildhall at Norwich, which was erected about 1410 on the site of an earlier building called the Tollhouse, is a good example

of decorative work in flint and stone. The council chamber still retains its early sixteenth century fittings, and on its panelled walls are the portraits of many mayors and sheriffs. Here also is preserved the sword of Admiral Winthuyssen, taken at St. Vincent by Lord Nelson, who presented it to the city. The Bassingham Gateway which now forms part of the Guildhall is supposed to have come from a house built by John Bassingham, who was admitted a freeman in 1516. The civic insignia and plate are extremely fine. The magnificent "Crystal Mace" was purchased from Mr. Augustine Stywarde in 1550: the Reade standing salt and cover of silver-gilt, given in 1568, and the rose-water ewer and basin, presented in 1663 by the Right Hon. Henry Howard, are beautiful specimens of the silversmith's art.

The Guildhall at King's Lynn, which was begun in 1421—2 but bears over its entrance the date 1624, is another fine example of a flint-and-stone-faced building, with a beautiful Gothic window. This was built by the Gild of the Holy Trinity, and the ancient Gild Roll records under the heading "*Constructio Novo Aule*" that £35 15s. 3d. was spent "in wages of divers masons, working

on the new hall, from the feast of Trinity to the same feast at the revolution of the year." An amount slightly less was paid to Nicholas Rollesby, of "Bakton," Suffolk, for timber for the Hall. Here is preserved the goblet called King John's Cup, which does not, however, date from an earlier period than the reign of Edward III.

The Old Tollhouse at Great Yarmouth is one of the oldest municipal buildings in England, for it was known to have been in existence in 1362, though it was not then the property of the Corporation, and probably dates from early in the thirteenth century. When Henry III. gave the burgesses the right to keep a building for prisoners and malefactors, this appears to have been used as the gaol. It was also the court of justice, and was later used for meetings of the Corporation. Its most interesting feature is an external stone staircase leading up to a good Early English doorway, with dog-tooth mouldings. The main hall (now the Free Library) has a fine timbered roof, and other rooms contain an interesting collection of natural history specimens and antiquities. Beneath the building are the dungeons in which prisoners were formerly confined, some of them sentenced by the barons

of the Cinque Ports sitting side by side with the bailiffs of the town on the occasion of the Free Fair.

The hall of the Guild of Corpus Christi at Lavenham is perhaps the finest example in England of a timber-framed building with the interstices constructed of wattle and daub, and then plastered over. It stands on the south side of the market place, and a small figure of John, fifteenth Earl of Oxford, is carved on the corner-post. In one of the cellars Dr. Rowland Taylor is said to have been imprisoned until a few days before he was burnt on Aldham Common. "Ye Old Moot Hall" in Cross Street, Sudbury, perhaps originally the Guild Hall of the Weavers, is another fine timber-framed building. The so-called "Mayor's House" in High Street, Hadleigh, has a pargetted front, and at the back a quadrangle overlooked by a bay window, while the Guildhall (now a school) on the south side of the churchyard dates from the fifteenth century. Woodbridge Shire Hall, which stands in the market place, is a Flemish-looking building erected about 1575 by Thos. Seckford. Until 1803 the lower part of it was open on all sides, but in that year the arches were enclosed. It is supposed to have been





designed by an immigrant from the Low Countries.

The "Clock house" at Watton, anciently known as the Bell House, or Lock-up, was erected after a great fire in 1673. To prevent such an occurrence in future, Christopher Hey, a mercer, erected the Clock House, containing a clock and a bell, the latter to give warning in case of fire. Six years afterwards he sold the tower to the town. The clock is dated 1679, and upon the vane and in the spandrils of the doorway is a rebus on the name of the town, namely a hare or wat—so called by many authors, including Drayton and Shakespeare—and a tun. The tower is battlemented, the red tiles having raised *fleurs-de-lys*.

Norwich, Ipswich and Yarmouth are county as well as municipal boroughs; and King's Lynn, Thetford, Bury St. Edmund's, Lowestoft, Aldeburgh, Beccles, Eye, Southwold and Sudbury are municipal boroughs, governed by mayors and corporations. I was never more impressed by the importance of the smaller boroughs than when I saw on the painted signboard of a muffin-maker in Norwich:—"Patronised by Royalty and the Mayoress of Eye." Separate Courts of Quarter

Sessions are held at Norwich, Yarmouth, Lynn, Thetford, Ipswich, Bury and Sudbury, which have their own Commissions of the Peace, as have also Lowestoft, Aldeburgh, Eye and Southwold.

Apart from the churches, and the ruined castles and monasteries, the chief attraction of these towns is the picture they present of the domestic architecture of many generations. Most of them give a more or less connected record of the architectural changes in the style of the ordinary dwelling-house from the sixteenth century onwards. Where new industries have arisen the older houses have been replaced by more modern erections; in towns which were at one time important industrial centres, but which have lost their place in the race and are now more or less moribund, the old houses remain to tell of former prosperity. Though there are many of these it is only possible to mention a few of the more noteworthy. A fine sixteenth century house at Bungay has some interesting windows with carved corbels representing David and Goliath, angels and other subjects, and contains a stone staircase. The probability that it was built by a prosperous merchant is indicated by the occur-

rence of a merchant's mark. Parts of the Old Vicarage at Stowmarket date from before the reign of Elizabeth. Dr. T. Young, who resided here, was visited by Milton, who is said to have planted a mulberry tree still growing in the garden.

Debenham, Halesworth and Hadleigh are small towns with a number of attractive survivals of ancient domestic architecture. Sun Court, near the bridge at Hadleigh, is a sixteenth century house with a winding staircase of oak close to the entrance door, and containing a panelled lower room. In Water Street, Lavenham, are some old houses and ornamental plaster-work, and on the way from the station to the town is another house embossed with a *fleur-de-lys* surmounted by a crown or mitre. The entrance hall and two staircases at Clare House, Clare, are fine specimens of woodwork, and on a house near the churchyard in the same town is some ornate pargetting, with the date 1473 in seventeenth century work. Salter's Hall, Sudbury, is a well-known example of half-timbered work, and it is also noteworthy for its splendid oriel window and Jacobean chimney-piece brought here from the old Black Boy Hotel. There are other fine old houses in

Sudbury, particularly in North Street, King Street, Old Market Place, and Market Hill, while over a cottage doorway in Curd's Lane is a fine wrought-iron bracket supporting a hood.

Moyses' Hall, in the market place at Bury St. Edmund's, dates from the early part of the twelfth century. The oldest record of it is in 1328 when some outlaws seized the keys of the town and hastened to "Moyse Hall" to breakfast, killing a servant of the Abbey on their way. Two Norman windows remain in the front, and a Perpendicular window, with a carving of the wolf guarding King Edmund's head, has also been inserted. It is now the borough museum. The old buildings of King Edward VI. School in Northgate Street, dating from 1665, are also worthy of inspection. Cupola House has two claims to distinction. It contains what is probably the finest staircase in East Anglia, a most elaborate example, made in 1693, with twisted balusters and well-designed newels, and reaching from the ground floor to the top of the house. Its exterior is a fine specimen of plaster-work, and the balcony railing is a rare example of ironwork done at the end of the seventeenth century.

John Evelyn, when he visited Ipswich in 1656,



... ..

... ..

THE OLD MOOT HALL, SUDBURY, SUFFOLK

A fine example of half-timbered work, with oriel window. Gainsborough was born here in Sepulchre Street

... ..

... ..



considered it "one of the sweetest, most pleasant, well-built townes in England," but few of the houses he saw remain. Perhaps the most familiar example of pargetting work in East Anglia is the famous Sparrowe's House (now called "The Ancient House"), which was executed about 1670, with emblematic groups representing Europe, Asia, Africa and America, Atlas supporting the world, and the arms of Charles II. The house itself was erected by George Coppinge in 1567. Even better is the treatment of a house in Fore Street, Ipswich, erected in 1588. Ipswich is also noted for its fine corner-posts, excellent specimens of which may also be seen in Norwich, King's Lynn, Lavenham, and other East Anglian towns.

On a beam in the kitchen of the Rookery farmhouse on the Norwich Road, Swaffham, the following inscription is cut :—"Swaffham Chvreh Bvilt 1454," while in White Hart Street, Thetford, is a fine half-timbered early sixteenth century building, excellently preserved, and showing the outline of an ancient watchman's box. Many of the houses in the town date from this and the beginning of the seventeenth century, but have been refronted. The old "White Hart" (now a private house) has two entrance porches with fine

ornamental ironwork. In May, 1550, according to the Household Accounts of the Le Stranges of Hunstanton, Sir Nicholas le Strange and Eustace Rolfe, his servant, made payments "to the wyffe of the Wyghte Harthe in Thetforde." In Nether Row is a range of ornamental wrought-iron palisading, originally erected by the Earl of Arlington in the seventeenth century, in front of Euston Hall. The Manor House is mostly Elizabethan, but the most interesting specimen of domestic architecture in the town is the King's House, surmounted by the Royal Arms. James I. was a frequent visitor to the town for hunting, shooting and hawking, and on July 8th, 1609, Sir William Berwick received a warrant for £1,000 to provide a house at Thetford for the King's recreation. Portions of the present building seem to have been added at that date and there is a Jacobean mantelpiece with beautifully carved figures, carved beams and oak-panelled rooms.

The half-timbered Old Manor House, in Bridewell Street, Wymondham, is said once to have been an inn. On a beam over the doorway is carved "*Nec mihi glis servus, nec hospes hirudo*," which may be Englished, "My servant is not a dormouse, nor is the host a leech." Over

the fireplace in one of the ground floor rooms is this further inscription on a beam :—" Richardus Lyncolne Annodominni 1616 live well and die never die well and live ever."

The little town of Walsingham has probably been as unaffected as any by the hand of time, and though it has no house of outstanding interest, a ramble through its streets will disclose remains of the domestic architecture of the past four or five centuries. Wells, Aylsham, Fakenham, East Dereham and Wymondham have undergone more changes, but in these also the number of interesting old houses is large.

King's Lynn, with its "wonderful streets that have been quietly beautiful for centuries," is noted for its fine merchants' houses, a survival of the time when, as Defoe said in 1722, it had "the greatest extent of inland navigation of any port in England, London excepted." "The same history," says Hilaire Belloc, "that permitted continual encroachment upon the public thoroughfares, and that built up a gradual High Street upon the line of some cow-track leading from the field to the ferry, the spirit that everywhere permitted the powerful or the cunning to withstand authority—that history (which is the history of

all our little English towns) has endowed Lynn with an endless diversity." Even in the twelfth century Friar William Newbury described it as "a noble city noted for its trade," and it soon ranked fourth among the ports of the kingdom. Though its importance gradually declined its trade was still extensive, warranting the erection in 1683 of the curious Custom House, "not very English, but very beautiful," as Belloc describes it. "The faces carved upon it," he adds, "were so vivid that I could not but believe them to have been carved in the Netherlands, and from this Custom House looks down the pinched, unhappy face of that narrow gentleman whom the great families destroyed—James II." In this, however, he is in error, for the statue is of Charles II. It was built by Sir John Turner as an Exchange for merchants, and his arms are above the main entrance. The architect was Henry Bell and the design is reminiscent of the buildings in the Low Countries. No. 17, Queen Street, which dates from 1708, is also attributed to Bell. It has a striking doorway in which the twisted Corinthian columns are pleasing features of the Queen Anne style. At the rear is a lofty red-brick tower built about 1580, and beneath the house a fourteenth

century crypt supported by central pillars. The old Greenland Fishery inn is a half-timbered house, with some carved window corbels and panelled rooms, now converted into a museum by the public spirit of Mr. E. M. Beloe, F.S.A. Thoresby's College in Queen Street, built of red brick by Thomas Thoresby, who was mayor in 1502, retains its original form of having wings enclosing a courtyard, but has been converted into dwelling-houses and stores.

Many of the old houses on the South Quay at Great Yarmouth have remarkably beautiful interiors. Among the noteworthy buildings in the town is the Hospital for Decayed Fishermen, erected by the Corporation in 1702. It encloses three sides of a square in the middle of which is a figure of Charity, while the roof of the east side is surmounted by a cupola containing a figure of St. Peter, the fishermen's patron saint.

A few years ago E. F. Fay described Norwich as "a city of cool green orchards and smiling gardens and old picturesque churches, with fine spacious central thoroughfares, and curious old-fashioned corners. Every street has its garden, each quarter its orchard ; the taverns are quaint and roomy ; through it, a beautiful olive green,

the winsome Wensum winds and wanders ; and above and about and in and out from its myriad pleasaunces waves the peerless beautiful lilac." Norwich has been called a " City of Gardens," a " City of Churches," and a " City of Bridges," and all these are applicable.

" A city of old churches, winding ways,
And keen, clear air ;
Where the long shadows of quaint yesterdays,
Temper to-day's fierce glare."

And this is its greatest charm. Here the past unites with the present. Some of the older city streets contain hardly a modern building ; in others the tall gables of the plaster houses, or the more substantial buildings of faced flint, are cheek by jowl with glaring structures of untuned red brick. Evelyn in 1671 described the suburbs as " large, the prospects sweet, with other amenities, not omitting the flower gardens, in which all the inhabitants excel."

In the British Museum is a M.S. of William Arderon, F.R.S., who came to Norwich in 1729 and died in 1767, in which he describes " The Manner of Building in Norwich." He said :—
" The Houses and other Buildings in Norwich hath formerly been constructed for the most

part of flintstone and lime. Some of the Flints being cut exactly square, and so curiously perform'd as not to admit of a knife's Blade between them. A remarkable example of this is to be seen at Bridewell, St. Andrew's, and in a great many other Houses in Norwich, but not so curious." The Bridewell was originally the home of William Appleyard, Mayor of Norwich in 1403, who built and occupied it. It was for a long period used as a Bridewell, and was sold by the city in 1829. Its flintwork is among the finest in England. One of its former doorways is now in St. Andrew's Lane, and, says Mr. Basil Oliver, "is probably unique in this part of England by reason of its two-light window above, which is formed within the actual door-frame, and makes a very pleasing mediæval substitute for the more modern form of fanlight." From the appearance of the flints and the thickness of the crust, it is obvious that many of them were obtained from the upper chalk of the immediate neighbourhood of Norwich, but whether they were squared and faced by local craftsmen, or by knappers imported from a flint-working centre such as Brandon, there is no evidence to show.

Most of the Strangers' Hall was built by

Nicholas Sotherton, who was mayor in 1539, and whose merchant mark is painted within two spandrils of the roof of the hall, but the crypt of three bays dates from the early part of the fourteenth century. One of the best Jacobean staircases in East Anglia was built in the bay window by Francis Cock in 1627. The main entrance is by an imposing doorway, the hood of which is supported by richly-carved lion and unicorn brackets. After passing through a yard the entrance to the house itself is up a short flight of stone steps through a fifteenth century groined entrance porch. It is now used as a folk-museum by Mr. L. G. Bolingbroke.

Other of the ancient houses in Norwich with special features of interest are the Old Barge House in King Street, which is a fourteenth century building with a crypt and an old doorway ; the Music House in King Street, which has a roof of thirteenth century work, and a Norman pillar in the crypt, was given by Henry III. to Sir William de Valoynes, was the residence of Sir John Paston in 1488, and the city house of Lord Chief Justice Coke in 1633 ; the faced flint Suckling House (recently rebuilt), the residence of John Cambridge, mayor of the city on four

THE SOUTH GATE, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK

The only surviving feature, of any interest, of the town walls. An order for its rebuilding was made in 1437



occasions between 1430 and 1439, afterwards the home of the Sucklings, of whom Sir John, the father of the poet, sold it in 1595; Curat's House on the Walk, probably built by John Curat, who was mayor in 1529; Augustine Steward's House on Tombland, which bears the date 1549, and is now incorporated with Samson and Hercules House (so called from the giant figures which support the doorway) and most of which was built by Christopher Jay in 1657; Bacon's House in Colegate Street, where Henry Bacon, who had been sheriff and mayor, entertained the Duke of Northumberland at the time of Kett's Rebellion; and Anguish's House, Tombland, built before 1596, when Thomas Anguish was sheriff.

Much of quaint old Norwich centres in the Close, where the Bishop's Palace contains some of the original building erected by Herbert de Losinga, though most of it is comparatively modern. The Gatehouse leading to the Palace grounds was erected in 1449. The Deanery is said originally to have been the porter's lodge of the priory. Remains of the old watergate giving access to the Close are to be found at Pull's Ferry, and of the other gateways, the

Erpingham Gate was erected about 1420, and the Ethelbert Gate about 1275. Part of the present Grammar School was originally a chapel built by Bishop Salmon in 1316. Almost under the shadow of the Cathedral is St. Helen's Hospital, the fine cloisters of which date from 1451.

Relics of the walls that enclosed the mediæval towns are still to be found at Norwich, Yarmouth and Lynn. In these and many other towns the word "gate" with some prefix is used for many street names, but has no connection with the gates of a walled town. The length of the city wall at Norwich on the south side of the Wensum was one and a half miles, and on the north side three-quarters of a mile, the boundary being completed by two sections of the river, so that the entire circuit of the city would be about four miles. According to Blomefield, the walls were begun in 1294 and finished about 1320, while in 1342 the gates and towers (which had been built at the same time as the walls) were "fortified and made fit to dwell in" by Richard Spynk. These, however, do not appear to have been the first walls, as the lower part seems in places to be thicker and of different construction

to the upper, and the mention of ditches and walls in 1288 indicates that the city had been walled before the erection of those to which most of the existing remains belong. The walls, according to Mr. Percy A. Nash, were originally about 20 feet high, about 3 feet 3 inches thick, and tapered slightly upwards, being embattled at the top in brickwork. Arched recesses were constructed of brick at various points, but the walls were of flint bedded in lime mortar, as were the towers with the exception of the Cow Tower, which is of brick. Remains of the circular Dungeon or Boom Tower stand on the east bank of the Wensum at Carrow, while opposite is another tower of similar construction. In this was the windlass for winding up the chain, the other end of which was fixed to the Boom Tower for the purpose, when needed, of preventing ingress to the city by the river. Another tower remains on a steep slope between King Street and Bracondale, while a further one, known as the "Black Tower," is on the top of the hill. The next on the line of the walls is at the back of No. 8, Queen's Road, two others are in Coburg Street, two in Chapel Field, and two near Barrack Street. Cow Tower is situated on the south

bank of the Wensum and was rebuilt in 1398—9. Good sections of the walls exist in various places, but all the gates have been pulled down, and only the iron pin upon which the hinge of the gate turned is still in position at St. Benedict's Gate.

South Gate is the only surviving feature of any interest of the walls of Lynn. An order for its rebuilding was made in 1437. Of its two archways, the larger was for vehicles and the smaller for foot passengers, but the highway has been diverted to the east of the present structure.

In 1260 a charter was granted to Yarmouth empowering the inhabitants to fortify the town with a wall and a moat, but the work was not begun until 1284, and remained uncompleted until 1396. The walls were built of flint and bricks, with Caen stone for ornamentation, and there were nine gates and sixteen towers. All the gates have been removed and only a few of the towers remain. Traces of King Henry's Tower may be seen near the north-east corner of St. Nicholas Church; the north-west tower, 25 feet in diameter, the lower part flint, the upper of thin red brick, is near the bottom of Fuller's Hill; and in Blackfriars Street is another, with some interesting ornamental brickwork.



front of the Westwicket was a large, low, square, stone building, which was the site of the old gate. The gate was a simple, square, stone building, which was the site of the old gate. The gate was a simple, square, stone building, which was the site of the old gate.

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THE OLD MOOT HALL, ALDEBURGH, SUFFOLK

Which stands on the beach at the foot of Church Hill, is half-timbered with panels of brick and flint, and is known to have been standing towards the end of the sixteenth century

The gate was a simple, square, stone building, which was the site of the old gate. The gate was a simple, square, stone building, which was the site of the old gate. The gate was a simple, square, stone building, which was the site of the old gate.



CHAPTER X

THE CHARM OF THE COAST

THE number of persons acquainted with the charms of one or more portions of the Norfolk and Suffolk coastline is immeasurably greater than of those familiar with the inland towns and villages of the two counties, for from their proximity to London and easiness of access to parts of the North and the Midlands, the seaside resorts are yearly visited by many thousands who know little or nothing of the attractions that lie beyond a limited stretch of hinterland. Nowhere does the coast offer any of the rugged and majestic scenery associated with the older rocks, but the foreshore is generally of golden yellow sand which forms an ideal playground, usually bordered by cliffs of no great height, caused by the tidal currents and wave-action on deposits of clay, gravel and sand, and at Hunstanton of chalk, but in the case of Yarmouth and some of the villages, open to all the winds that blow.

Almost at the mouth of the estuary of the

Orwell, Felixstowe is the most southerly of the Suffolk coast towns. Other seaside resorts may boast of their sands, their cliffs, their gardens, their piers, their climate, or the beauty and interest of their surroundings ; Felixstowe boasts of them all, or rather might do, for it has allowed its attractions to exercise their own charm, rather than boast of them vain-gloriously. The modern town is situated on high ground between the estuaries of the Deben and Orwell, the foreshore between the two being a little over four miles in length. Between the two rivers there are several Martello towers, and from most points of view one or the other of them is visible. They were erected early in the nineteenth century when an invasion by Napoleon was considered probable, and were named after the tower standing on Cape Mortella in the island of Corsica. Towards Landguard Fort the beach becomes more sandy and with a sweeping curve forms a fine bay, the southern end of which is Landguard Point, the most conspicuous promontory on the Suffolk coast. Across the estuary may be seen the long line of the distant Essex coast, Dovercourt, Harwich, with the spire of the parish church rising above the red roofs much like St. Nicholas

at Great Yarmouth, and in that part of Suffolk between the estuaries of the Orwell and the Stour, Shotley with its Martello tower.

The town of Felixstowe is modern, but in house architecture picturesqueness has obviously been considered equally with utility. Most of the streets are laid out with a commendable disregard of mathematical precision, to the consequent greater beauty of the town. The luxuriance of the vegetation is also a distinguishing feature, for there are gardens, trees and shrubs round most of the houses, and fuchsias and hydrangeas flourish in the open all the year round. Bent Hill, a zigzag road leading down the cliff, is the main approach to the parade and beach. It gives access first to a roadway, then a series of small gardens, a concrete promenade extending about two miles from north to south, and the beach, somewhat narrow, very shingly (with sandy patches), and split up into scores of small sections by the wooden groynes projecting into the sea. Towards the Deben, the cliffs, providing fine sections of Suffolk Crag, gradually get lower. On the southern bank of the Deben is a cluster of houses known as Felixstowe Ferry, one of the bleakest settlements on the East Anglian coast.

It stands forlornly on the shingle, apparently dumped down haphazard in days long ago and then forgotten. Over a mile separates this hamlet from Felixstowe proper, and near by, the inland part of the sandhills is occupied by the golf links, while further from the coast the breeze sweeps unrestrainedly across the wide expanse of salt marshes.

Between Bawdsey Ferry and Aldeburgh the coast is wild and difficult of access, bare of towns and villages, although the interesting little town of Orford lies to the west of Orford Haven. The sea, however, is beyond a long shingle spit which stretches ten miles southward from Aldeburgh, and was formed by the southern set of the currents. With the similar bank at Blakeney Point it is the most remarkable natural feature of the East Anglian coast. Both are noted for their special flora and for their colonies of terns. Aldeburgh is a town which modern improvements have affected but little. The beach is utterly devoid of sand. There is nothing but shingle; pebbles of every size and description. For nearly 300 years the burgesses of Aldeburgh returned two members to Parliament, but the encroachment of the sea has caused its decay as a port,



though Defoe thought that it flourished on its decay.

Northward a large area of marshland has been drained, and a bungalow town, known as Thorpeness, erected on the beach. Thorpe Mere was anciently 1,000 acres in extent, and appears originally to have been the mouth of the river Alde, which was diverted further south by the encroachment of the travelling shingle. Thence towards Dunwich the beach is bordered by low dunes and sandy cliffs, passing Sizewell Gap, formerly a favourite spot for running a cargo of contraband. I have heard tales of horses with shoes reversed and of shepherds who drove their flocks over the tracks of the smugglers.

Of all the splendour of ancient Dunwich little is left but "dust and grass and barren silent stones." Here the sea has probably caused more damage than anywhere along the Suffolk coast. Nearly 600 years ago its harbour was totally destroyed and 400 houses were washed away by the sea; church after church suffered a like fate. And though it is now a peaceful and picturesque village, at one time it was strongly fortified, for when Robert, Earl of Leicester, tried to take it in 1173, a contemporary MS. said, "the strength

thereof it was terror and fear unto him to behold it, and so retired both he and his people." For many years the ruined church of All Saints has been gradually tumbling over the cliffs, and a considerable portion was swallowed up by the sea in the winter of 1919. A few years ago the cliff footpath crossed part of the chancel; half the tower was gone; and nothing but the bare walls remained. As Swinburne then finely described it :—

" One hollow tower and hoary,
Naked in the sea-wind stands and moans,
Filled and thrilled with its perpetual story;
Here, where earth is dense with dead men's bones."

From the edge of the cliff a sunken footpath leads to the village, which lies in a hollow on the landward side of the line of hills which the sea is rapidly removing. Here in this sheltered nook the fuchsias grow 6 feet in height. On the sign of the Barne Arms Hotel is the coat of the family with a motto appropriate to dwellers in such a locality :—"Nec temere nec timide." The tiny stream, known as Dunwich Run, is a favourite haunt of artists, but, despite the peaceful beauty of the place, saddening memories of the past are more powerful than influences of the present, for

here the sea has proved a relentless foe, whose ravages are by no means ended.

Beyond the sandy cliffs of Dunwich, the highest point of which furnishes one of the finest land and seascapes on the Suffolk coast, a pebble ridge stretches northwards to the mouth of the Blyth. From the top of the ridge fine inland views may be obtained of pine wood, salt marsh, heath, arable land and the coast from Thorpe on the south to Covehithe on the north, but on the seaward side of the ridge the aspect is that described by Swinburne :—

“A land that is lonelier than ruin ;
A sea that is stranger than death :
Far fields that a rose never blew in,
Wan waste where the winds lack breath ;
Waste endless and boundless and flowerless
But of marsh-blossoms fruitless as free,
Where earth lies exhausted, as powerless
To strive with the sea.”

For three miles the monotony of the pebble ridge tries the traveller, but he finds full compensation on arrival at Walberswick, that quaintest of quaint villages, mellowed by time and sunshine and storm and the flying spindrift. The village is an artistic gem, untouched by the hand of the despoiler, showing wonderful gradations of colour and per-

plexing the artist with the play of light and shade on its nondescript sheds and buildings, the ripple of the wind over the salt marshes, and the glimpses of sunshine on sea and river. Leading from the village and the ferry to the common are various winding lanes, which may have been the streets of the old town in the days of its prosperity, when the evil days came not. The splendid church was built by the inhabitants between 1473 and 1493, when Walberswick was a port and market town of considerable importance, but fires and the decay of the fishing industry wrought such ruin that the inhabitants could not raise sufficient money to preserve the magnificent building.

From Walberswick Ferry to Southwold there is a delightful walk on the bank bordering the Salt Creek. The surroundings of Southwold are Dutch, though the town itself is English in style, more, however, of the Victorian era, whose houses are legacies from an earlier period. In the main street are quaint gables and chimney-stacks, picturesque dormers, brick houses with red-tiled roofs and coloured walls, while in the byways—and how many there are only a native can tell—there are cottages of such diverse architecture, with such curious unexpected windows, painted



A. HATON-CODREY • 10

figure-heads that once adorned the bows of vessels, lichened roofs and stained creeper-clad walls, as to give the visitor with artistic perception delight at every step. On the landward side is the common, a wide sweep of gorse-clad heights, bordered by marshland on three sides with the town as a base. From it a long stretch of the Blyth valley is visible, from the harbour mouth, where the river current meets the rolling waves, inland to where the magnificent pile of Blythburgh Church crowns a hillock bordering the alluvium. Nearer than the scattered houses of Walberswick clusters the red-tiled hamlet of Blackshore, an assemblage of houses extracted bodily from a Noah's ark, and mellowed with the passing of the years.

In the town itself the main streets are fairly wide and open spaces many, the latter said to be a resultant of the great fire of 1659, when the town was almost destroyed. The nine greens are legitimately the pride of Southwold. In an enclosure just outside the churchyard wall are preserved the town stocks and whipping-post, a most interesting survival of days when the criminal code was more barbarous, but offences more common. The glorious church was erected in

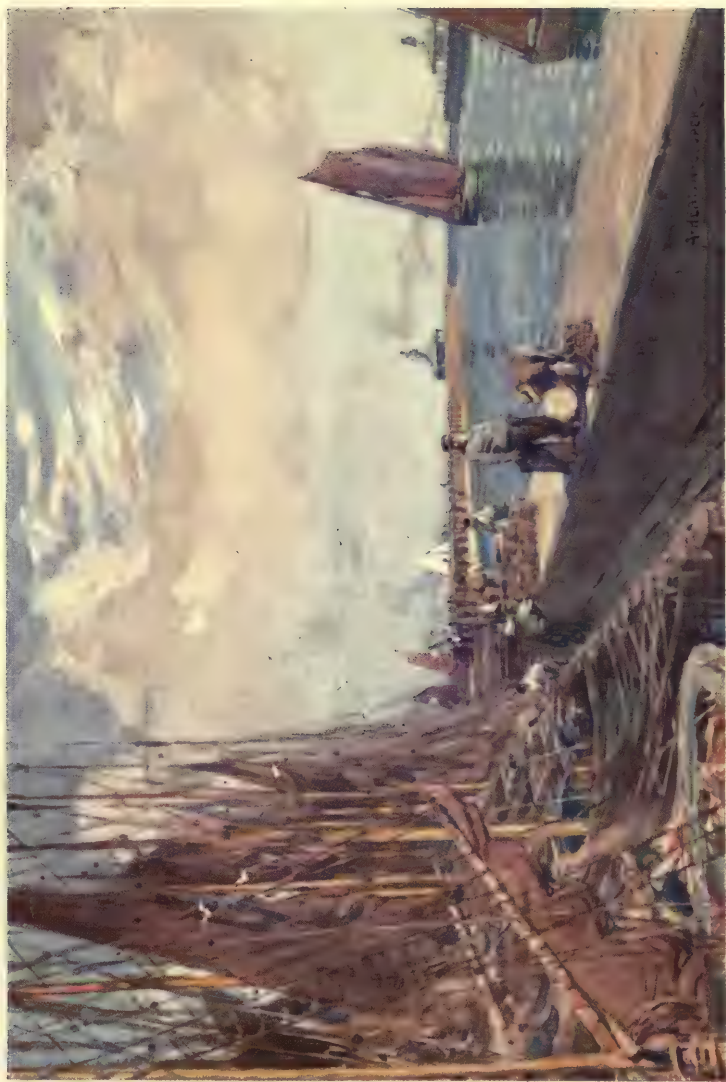
the first half of the fifteenth century, is dedicated to St. Edmund, has a splendid Perpendicular tower 100 feet in height, an elaborate south porch with parvise, and a light open lantern in which the sanctus bell formerly hung. The most picturesque part of Southwold is that lying between the town and the harbour mouth and known as California. Here are wastes of shingle, sand-hills and marram grass, sheds where nets and boats and model yachts are made, sheds of tarred planks, some of which are flotsam and jetsam, with curious figure-heads taken from wrecks. At the town end is the old wooden salt mill, sole relic of a once flourishing industry.

North of Southwold a coast walk of about four miles provides a pleasantly diversified route and glimpses of three of the brackish lagoons cut off from the sea by shingle banks in summer, but united with it at high tides in winter. Easton Bavent tells a tale familiar enough along all this coast. It was built on the low hills which have been gradually scoured away by the raging sea; the church with all its hallowed associations, the architecture which men wrought in hopes of providing a perpetual reminder of their piety, the houses which men and women loved, the fields

which they tilled—all have gone down into the depths; the raging sea has devoured them bit by bit, dissected them, ground them into sand and shingle, and deposited them down the coast. Easton, however, is still something more than a name in musty documents; there are habitations within its boundaries; and Easton cliffs and Easton Broad keep its memory green. The broad lies in a depression between the shingle bank that succeeds the cliffs and a sandy slope crowned by a wood. It is a large expanse of water, with deeps whence the water weeds rise in huge subaqueous forests, shallows where the gulls can sleep knee-deep in water and occasionally find a delicate morsel to tickle their palates, sinuous waterways among the over-arching reeds and rushes where the moorhens flirt and the coots find impregnable fastnesses of marsh plants. Covehithe Broad is grown up to an even greater degree. The ruins of the old church at Covehithe are the most picturesque on the coast. From Covehithe Ness fine views of Southwold, Kessingland and Lowestoft are obtainable. At the end of these cliffs a wide stretch of flat country opens out; on the land side of the shingle ridge is a big reedy expanse, somewhere among which is all

that remains of Benacre Broad, probably at one time the largest of these brackish lagoons.

Beyond this the cliffs rise to a height of 70 feet and continue, with a break at Lowestoft, to the harbour mouth at Gorleston. Kessingland has few claims to picturesqueness, but in the long stretch from the southern end of Pakefield to the northern end of Lowestoft there is sufficient variety to please all tastes, as is proved by the fact that it is easily the most popular of the Suffolk seaside resorts. It has been described as a combination of fish and fashion, for Lowestoft is the chief Suffolk fishing-port, and large fleets of drifters and trawlers use the harbour. The older part of the town is built on a line of cliff from which the sea has receded, leaving the denes with their interesting flora between the ancient and modern coast-lines. At the foot of the cliffs many of the fishermen's houses are built, one of the means of access thereto being by narrow steeply-sloping alleys known as "scores." At the entrance to Wilde's Score from the High Street is South Flint House, one of the fine old flint buildings of East Anglia, with the date 1586 over the doorway. South of the harbour are two fine piers and a lengthy esplanade, and near the



High Lighthouse are the pleasure gardens known as the Sparrows' Nest, in which is an old thatched mansion. Adjoining these grounds is Belle Vue Park, and beyond it an old gap in the cliff, known as the Ravine, over which a light iron bridge leads to the North Parade.

Between Lowestoft and Gorleston a hamlet called Newton has been lost by coast erosion, and considerable loss of land has also occurred at Corton, where the lofty tower of the church is a conspicuous landmark. Gorleston is at the mouth of the Yare on the cliff which stopped that river's further southward course. It is a strange combination of past and present, of traditions dating back to the time of the Druids, of mediæval antiquities and modern dwellings, modern enterprise and modern improvements. The geological formation of the district certainly gives Gorleston a greater claim to antiquity than Yarmouth, for it is undoubtedly true that the latter place was beneath the sea when Gorleston was a minor Roman station, and the improbability of the recurrence of a similar state of affairs, as forecasted in a couplet with which the men of Gorleston taunted their neighbours—

“Gorleston great will one day be,
Yarmouth buried in the sea”

—is not so great as might at first sight appear. High Street is a narrow, old-world highway, a quaint admixture of modern dwellings and ancient low-roofed shops and hostelries. Druery says that the houses are “generally respectable” (a somewhat ambiguous tribute). Pier, beach, cliffs and harbour provide all the variety that the visitor can desire.

Old views of Yarmouth show the town mainly as a series of windmills and look-outs for fishermen, but the opening of the fish-wharf by the river in 1868 and the consequent removal of the fishing industry from the beach, together with the wonderful development of the town as a popular seaside resort, has entirely changed its character. The narrow rows still remain one of its most remarkable features. At one time there were 145 of them. They were first numbered in 1804, but some still retain their old names. Kitty Witches Row is said by Forby to have been so named from a wild frolic among the women there, who dressed themselves in their husbands' shirts, smeared their faces with blood, and ran whooping and shouting all over the town; but it is more probable that it was because in 1583 two women who resided here were tried

for witchcraft, and one executed. When the skippers and fishermen all lived in the rows, watchmen were employed to go up and down them and "cry the wind." Nall says that "the most singular and curious feature of Yarmouth—that in which it resembles no other English town—is its row or lane. The term is probably a corruption of the French *rue*, a street. The construction of the Yarmouth Rows doubtless originated in the cramped situation of the town, extending along a peninsula of very limited area, and surrounded for several centuries with fortifications." Mr. Hilaire Belloc, however, gives an explanation of the growth of sea towns which carries their origin to a much more remote period. "The town would begin," he says, "upon the highest of the bank, for it was flatter for building, drier, and easier to defend than that part next to the water. Down from the town to the shore the fishermen would lay out their nets to dry. How nets look when so laid, their narrowness and the curve they take, everybody knows. Then on the spaces between the nets shanties would be built, or old boats turned upside down for shelter, so that the curing of fish, and the boiling of tar, and the sewing and parcelling of ropes could be

done under cover. Then as the number of people grew, the squatters' land got value, and houses were raised (you will find many small freeholds in such rows to this day), but the lines of the net remained in the alleyways between the houses."

The quay is said to be the most picturesque in Europe with the exception of that of Seville, and the harbour usually provides more interest than the sea-front.

On a coast where the effects of erosion have been most severely felt, Yarmouth is a striking exception, for here the sea has been receding for many years. Both the South Denes, which formed the barrier between the sea and river near the harbour mouth, and the North Denes, which divided sea and marshland between the town and Caister, have been considerably reduced in area by building operations, and have lost much of their characteristic flora. Caister is a fishing village, beyond which low cliffs rise and continue past the hamlet of California, which consists of a tavern and a number of rather dilapidated houses, with an approach to the sea by a "gap." The "scores" of the Suffolk coast and the "gaps" of the Norfolk were probably formed by subterranean springs which undermined the cliffs. Near

have called home. They, with their families, are not only the backbone of the herring industry, but also the backbone of the herring trade. They are the ones who are the backbone of the herring industry, and they are the ones who are the backbone of the herring trade.

The great herring trade is the backbone of the herring industry, and it is the backbone of the herring trade. The great herring trade is the backbone of the herring industry, and it is the backbone of the herring trade.

11. YARMOUTH, NORFOLK—THE HERRING HARVEST

Yarmouth is the largest herring port in the country, and in the autumn large numbers of Scottish girls come south to take part in the industry

There are many who say that the herring industry is the backbone of the herring trade. They are the ones who are the backbone of the herring industry, and they are the ones who are the backbone of the herring trade. The great herring trade is the backbone of the herring industry, and it is the backbone of the herring trade.



A. HEYSON CO. JAPAN

Hemsby Gap there is a double line of marram hills, with a valley between, covered with marram grass and sand-sedge, furze and ferns, whitethorn and brambles. Further north, Winterton Church tower, 125 feet in height, is a prominent landmark, and it is said to sway backwards and forwards in a gale to such an extent that a tombstone at the base is alternately visible and obscured to an observer on the summit. Less than a mile north of Winterton the inner line of sandhills ceases, and there is one ridge only between the sea and the marshland reaching away to Norwich, for this was the former outlet of the Hundred Stream, which is now tapped by the Bure. It is obvious that the great sand-dune bastion north and south of Horsey, which protects some 59,000 acres of land in the valleys of the Yare, Bure and Waveney, is gradually being driven further inland, but so long as this frail barrier remains unbreached by the sea it affords adequate protection, and in at least a portion of the beach there seems to be some accretion. It has, however, been broken by the tides on various occasions in the past, and a conjunction of unfavourable winds and tides may at any time cause a repetition of the process. There were great sea-floods in 1251 and 1286,

but that of 1287, described by John of Oxnead, drowned no less than 108 people in Hickling alone, and the water stood a foot higher than the altar of the priory. He mentions that "men and women sleeping in their beds, with infants in their cradles," were destroyed by the sudden bursting in of the sea. The Abbey of St. Benet's at Hulme stood out like an island in the middle of the waste of waters, having been protected by its surrounding walls. There were further serious breaches in the sand-dunes in 1601—5, in 1791, 1800 and 1897. The extent of the marshland protected by the sand-dunes between Winterton and Eccles is indicated by the fact that no less than 103 parishes are liable to contribute to the maintenance of the barrier. That there is a possibility of widespread inundation is proved by the flood of 1607, when the sea poured through the breach at every high tide and flooded the low-lying land "into the very body and heart of the country."

In 1805 there were several serious breaches in the sandhills, and a Sea Breach Commission, which has since been responsible for the maintenance of the barrier, was appointed.

The sand bastion continues past Horsey, Wax-

ham, Palling and Eccles, beyond which begins the long line of cliff which ends at Weybourne. Occasionally, as at Waxham, the sand-dunes attain a height of 50 feet. Along the cliff section between Eccles and Weybourne the coastline is receding at the rate of two or three yards a year. The church of St. Mary at Happisburgh is one of the prominent landmarks of the coast, and beyond it is Bacton, where the ruins of Bromholm Priory are still worth a visit. Paston, which lies a little way inland, has a beautiful churchyard, while the church is noted for some fine monuments to the Pastons.

The charms of Mundesley are much the same as those of other coast towns along the golden yellow shores of Norfolk and Suffolk, yet each place has its own distinctive beauties. Here there are grey cliffs, with wide sands, broken by "lows" where the water remains at ebb tide. A tiny rivulet trickles down its miniature gorge into the sea, after a course of five miles from Holly Hill, Trimingham. Before the land receded so far it may have been connected with the little stream which flows inland from near Bromholm Abbey into the Ant. Beyond Mundesley the cliffs rise to their greatest height on the Norfolk

coast at Trimingham, where the Beacon provides one of the most far-reaching views in the county, and by Sidestrand and Overstrand until Cromer is reached. The Great Eastern railway station is more finely situated than any other in the county, on the seaward end of that great terminal moraine of the North Sea glacier, known as the Cromer-Holt ridge, which not only provides the highest land in the county, but makes much of the scenery of north-east Norfolk more nearly resemble that of Devonshire than does any other part of the county. Much of it is wooded, and the views from Beacon Hill—the so-called Roman Camp—Pretty Corner, and many other places along the ridge provide wide diversity of hill and dale, sea and woodland. From Beacon Hill one overlooks West Runton and its church, Beeston Regis Church, with just a glimpse of the Priory, Sheringham and Weybourne, with a sea horizon of vast extent. Before the reign of Edward III. the beacons were merely composed of stacks of wood set upon hills and fired when enemies were approaching; but in his reign they were brought under some sort of system and watches were regularly kept, whilst horsemen, called “hobbelars,” were stationed in their



vicinity to give notice of the approach of the enemy should it take place in the daytime when the fire would not be seen.

Cromer is another of the fishing villages which has developed into a popular watering-place, and this, not because of any particular charms of its own, apart from cliffs and sands, which it shares with many other places along the coast. Its attraction is largely due to the beauty of the hinterland, and this also applies to the Runtons and Sheringham. For many miles along this stretch of coast the cliff-walks provide delightful vistas not only of sea and sand, but of the wooded heights of the inland ridges.

For centuries Sheringham has been the home of a hardy race of mariners. Not content with fishing near the English coast, more than 300 years ago they were noted as men, fearless of the dangers of the northern seas, who yearly went for the "Iseland fisshinge from whence cometh the best provision of Linge and Codfishe to the benefit of this Realme." Lower Sheringham lies embosomed in a hollow between Beeston Hill on the east, the Skelding Hills on the west, and Hook's Hill on the south. Low-lying ground to the west of the Skelding Hills is still known as

Sheringham Hythe. Sheringham of the present day, with its fine hotels, concrete promenade, and busy streets, would seem an entirely different place to a visitor of fifty years ago. It was then merely a fishing village with small cottages built of beach pebbles, and the most characteristic smell was that indescribable one which came from the coppers where the whelks were boiled. Both here and at Cromer an important fishery for crabs and lobsters is still carried on. When the tide is at the flood the little of Sheringham beach that is visible consists of a huge bank of pebbles; when the tide is at the ebb there is a wide expanse of smooth, firm sand, ribbed by the receding wavelets.

Most of the Norfolk and Suffolk coast-line consists of sand, mud or clay, and the strip between Cromer and Weybourne, and that fronting the cliff at Hunstanton, are the only portions where the beach at low water consists of any deposit which can legitimately be described as rock, consisting in the former case of chalk and in the latter of lower greensand. Off Sheringham, where the sea-bed is free from sand, the chalk is broken up into rugged lumps which the waves find it difficult to remove, and between them are pools in

which many species of seaweed, several of sea-anemone, small crabs and mollusca flourish. The chalk is everywhere bored by molluscs, and the process of denudation removes quantities of flint and a certain number of fossils, especially the familiar belemnites—the “thunderbolt” of the rustic—hundreds of which occur in the pools. Among the flints are some extremely fine para-moudras, one to the east of the Beeston Groyne being 4 feet in diameter, though as its base is still embedded in the chalk it is impossible to ascertain its height. The chalky nature of the seabed affects the colour of the water. From the top of the cliffs the extent of the bare chalk area is plainly visible, as are also the seaweed-covered patches, and the reflection of the light beneath gives the breaking waves the appearance of green glass.

The landward side of the beach from Sheringham westward to Blakeney Point ten miles away is formed by a ridge of pebbles, in some places attaining considerable height and breadth. These have been pebbled by the waves, and the noise at high tide with a rough sea, as thousands of pebbles grind one against the other, is a characteristic of this part of the coast-line, easily distin-

guishing it at night from the sandy and shingly areas further east and south. The majority of the pebbles are flint, either derived from the denudation of the chalk, from the stone bed of the Weybourne Crag, or from the glacial gravels and clays of which the cliffs are formed, but there are also many pebbles of the harder rocks brought by glacial action from as far north as Scandinavia and the north-east coast of England. Protected by this huge shingle bank, west of Weybourne is an extensive range of tidal marshes traversed by creeks with an occasional area of embanked and drained fresh-water marshes. These may originally have been prolonged further east and bounded on the north by hills since denuded. The most westerly of the creeks, known as Blakeney Harbour, is over a mile in width and contains about five square miles of water at high tide. Blakeney Point, and the neighbouring sand-dunes and salt marshes, which are vested in the National Trust, form one of the finest nature reserves in the country. The area in question consists of three and a half miles of the pebble bank, together with the system of sand-dunes and salt marshes connected with it, and, in addition, a considerable tract of salt marshes or "saltings" abutting on

the mainland. The total area, excluding fore-shore, is about 1,000 acres. The history of the physical development of the Point is easily discernible in the numerous "hooks" or lateral spits which have been formed on the landward side of the bank. The ground between these has silted up and formed salt marshes, whilst sand-dunes have accumulated on parts of the main bank, and on some of the lateral banks, particularly at Blakeney Point itself. Each type of soil, shingle, salt marsh, and sand-dune has its special vegetation. Here may be seen all the stages in the development of plant-associations from the bare shingle, sand or silt to a stabilised flora. Some of the plants are of special interest, notably the forms and species of sea-lavender, the oyster-plant (not otherwise recorded on this coast south of Northumberland), and the shrubby sea-blite. This is extremely luxuriant and recalls a juniper in appearance. Blakeney Point has long been famous for its birds, both those that breed here and the spring and autumn migrants. The principal breeding-grounds lie among sand-dunes on the seaward side of the Point and on the bare shingle. Common and lesser terns breed in considerable numbers; the ringed plover is also

common ; and the oyster-catcher is usually represented by a few pairs. To the lover of wild nature, sea and sand and sky and open spaces, there is no more attractive spot than Blakeney Point on the East Anglian coast.

In a recent description of these north Norfolk flats, a contributor to the *Nation* said :—" The north and north-east coast of Norfolk is like a padded shoulder thrust out into the sea to beguile many a wind-worn feathered navigator, blown out of its course, to strike sail and rest upon it. The flats themselves cover an immense district, and, though partly marsh and partly mud and varied with broad sandy expanses, low turf walls running seaward, sandhills tufted with coarse marram grass, rushy pools and narrow streams, present a uniform stretch indescribable both in feature and beauty. On the plain there is nothing between you and the horizon ; earth and sky seem interchangeable, and, so boundless is the adventure of mind, that you might as well be walking on the one as the other. The business of the land is other than to rear a multiformity of shapes and colours for eyes to climb and wind among. It becomes what the white sheet is to the film camera, a surface for colours to come

tumbling out of the paint-box to run and play and wheel upon like schoolboys out of class. 'Come unto these yellow sands and there take hands.' "

Weybourne, or Wabourne, is a quaint little village with an interesting church about half a mile from the sea. It is at the end of the line of cliffs and the beginning of the huge pebble bank that stretches away to Blakeney Point, passing Kelling, Salthouse and Cley. On the landward side of the ridge at Weybourne is a pool of water surrounded by thickets of reeds, which are a favourite haunt of coot. Kelling is in a similar situation to Weybourne, in a pretty hollow, between which and Weybourne the road passes over the shoulder of Muckleburgh Hill, from which an extensive view may be obtained. Along all this coast borderland between Cromer and Wells there are many isolated mounds caused by glacial action. Some of them, like Blakeney Downs, a long and tortuous ridge of gravel and sand, are probably eskers. Beyond Kelling the coast road borders the marshes, which at Salt-house were probably the last breeding-place of the avocet in England.

It was Sir F. C. Gould who discovered what he

termed the "knucklebone" style of architecture in the cottages of Cley-next-the-Sea. These bones are built into the wall over windows of cottages near the church, and also surround some flint panels in a house on the south side of the main street. This, however, is merely one of a hundred styles of architecture in the parish. There seem to be hardly two houses on the same plan, and the porches in particular are of every variety. The main street is narrow and winding, and bears evidence of the days when Cley was an important port, though not so large as Blakeney. The jurisdiction of the port called Blakeney and Cley formerly extended thirty miles along the coast from Morston to Bacton Coal Gap. Cley Creek (or "Crick," as the natives term it) was one of the three great creeks on the north Norfolk coast, the others being at Blakeney and Burnham. On the banks of this creek stood Cley and Wiveton, and possibly Glandford and Bayfield, and the river Glaven now runs along the middle of its bed. It meanders through the salt marshes until it unites with Blakeney Harbour and they both enter the sea south of Blakeney Point. At Cley itself the creek is an expanse of mud or muddy water as the tide is at ebb or flood, and with the





fine windmill forms a picturesque scene which has been perpetuated by many artists. Of all the churches of the East Anglian coast-line many prefer that of Cley. For this there are various reasons. Its situation on the slight eminence overlooking the village green ; its dominance of the little town of Cley as one looks down on it from between Wiveton and Blakeney from the heights above Glandford, or from the approaches to Salthouse Heath ; the magnificence of its conception, the failure to complete it, and the beauty of its details.

Blakeney is the nearest East Anglian approach to Clovelly on the Devon coast, or Staithes, Robin Hood's Bay and Runswick Bay on the Yorkshire coast. Its narrow street winds down the hill from the church to the quay. It seems to have changed but little for a century or so, though we cannot now recognise its resemblance to the Blakeney which was once the most important port on the Norfolk coast. In the fourteenth century Snitterley was also a busy port, and appears to have borne the same relation to Blakeney that Shipden did to Cromer and to have been long ago washed away by the sea. The church of St. Nicholas occupies one of the most

commanding positions in the county, and is visible from Cromer, near Holt, from various hills to the westward, and a long way out to sea. The tower is 104 feet in height, and at the north-eastern angle of the church is a slender turret which is said to have been used as a beacon to indicate the entrance to the harbour. Apart from the church, the ancient glory of Blakeney has departed, and it no longer holds the position of maritime importance that it did in the days when it sent two ships and thirty-eight mariners to the siege of Calais, and helped to defeat the Spanish Armada. Nevertheless, it remains one of the most picturesque and unspoiled places on the coast.

Morston is a bleak village, but Stiffkey, the next on the coast road, clusters alongside a little stream in a valley between the chalk hills—one of the most delightful situations in Norfolk. It is noted for its cockles—the famous “Stewkey blues.” Beyond it is Warborough Hill, from which a wide area of country is visible.

Wells is a decayed sea-port with a picturesque quay and harbour. A steep, straight embankment runs for two miles from the town to the pebbly beach, beyond which at low tide are the

mud flats and the sea. From October until February or March these mud flats are the home of large flocks of pink-footed geese. "They come heralded by a clamour of high-pitched nasal voices and in a broad irregular phalanx, flying roughly wedge-shaped, phalanx upon phalanx. Like long thin wisps of cloud they look—thousands of great birds—and then you may see them individually, high up seeming to the naked eye a flock of rooks, but glasses reveal the long outstretched necks and the wide spread of the pointed wings." They feed on the fresh marshes, on the mud flats, or on the arable fields inland. West of Wells the Holkham sand-dunes have to a large extent been planted with trees and the salt marshes were enclosed and banked in 1722.

Between Wells and Holme the meal marshes, with their muddy creeks, provide some of the most desolate areas in East Anglia. Burnham Overy Staithe is described by Mr. W. A. Dutt as "a bleak little place on the landward border of the marshes, with two little inns, a big old buttressed malthouse, a quay with a wooden bench for old salts, some brightly painted boats belonging to the mussel-rakers, and, where it is not overpowered by the indescribable odour of

shellfish, a fragrance of sea-southernwood suggestive of an old-fashioned country garden." All the Burnhams are a little distance inland, but the old Roman station of Brancaster is on the edge of the salt marshes, as are the villages of Titchwell, Thornham and Holme. Brancaster Staithe, with its ancient tarred sheds, is a landing-place for mussels, and, with Thornham, partakes of the picturesque chaos of Slaughden, Walberswick and Burnham Overy Staithe. There is a fine view of Brancaster from the golf links—the village with its ivy-mantled church tower surrounded by elms, its old-fashioned cottages with hanging eaves, walls of flint and beach pebbles, the little harbour with its curious warehouses, and the great banks protecting the marshes. Perhaps wildest and weirdest of all the scenes along this lonely coast is that beyond the sandhills where Holme bounds Thornham. Desolate sand-dunes with wiry marram grass, banks and lines of faggots half covered by the blowing sand, sand and sea as far as eye can reach, with no trace whatever of man and civilisation—one might almost be on any sea-board of any continent. Yet the "meals" have a charm of their own, with creeks and drains filled by every flood tide, and mile after mile



HEATON COOPER

richly coloured with a flora of crimson, gold and purple, the last-named predominating, for species of sea lavender cover many acres with their beautiful mauve blossoms.

New Hunstanton is one of the few seaside places that have been made to order, resembling Felixstowe in this respect. Its fine position is owing to the fact that the chalk downs here meet the sea, and there is about a mile of cliff, providing a valuable geological section and also a charming study in colours. From the lighthouse the cliff slopes northwards to the sandhills of Old Hunstanton and Holme, and southward to the sandhills of Heacham. New Hunstanton is on the southern slope. When the tide is in, the tops of huge boulders project from the rushing waters; when it is out, children, with improvised alpenstocks of broom-sticks and bamboo curtain-poles, jump from boulder to boulder and derive keen enjoyment from imaginary !Alps. At ebb tide there is a wide stretch of firm sand, and the boulders of conglomerate, chalk and greensand are full of fossils. Old Hunstanton, a mile away, has the added charm which the mellowing touch of time alone can give, and its old-world beauties have not felt the hand of the destroyer. Even

the old walls, built of an assortment of flint, chalk, carstone and brick, with patches of ivy-leaved toadflax and red valerian, add to the harmony of the scene. The pond, the magnificent elms, the spacious and well-kept churchyard, form a fitting setting for the beautiful church, with its wonderful porch with decorated wheel-windows, open cusp-work with turned-in finials, ball-flower mouldings, two stone seats, and a vacant niche above the entrance. Ringstead Downs, a dry, chalk valley a mile in length, are one of the playgrounds of the neighbourhood. At the western end closely-cropped turf covers the valley-bottom and the slopes rising to a height of 50 or 60 feet. So zigzag is the valley that in places one appears to be quite surrounded by hills. In parts the valley-slopes are bare of trees; in others they are clothed with furze or tangled clumps of bramble; and further eastward with scattered oaks and pines facing a thick plantation of ash, beech and fir, while nearer the farmhouse at the western end are some ancient elms.

Between Hunstanton and Lynn, the coast-line itself borders the Wash and has little of interest. Marshes lie between the high land and the sea, but the villages on the higher ground contain

scenes of wondrous beauty, of historic interest, and of manifold charm, whether in Heacham, Snettisham, Dersingham, Castle Rising or North and South Wootton. Both here and beyond Lynn the Wash is bordered by artificial banks, on the landward side of which are reclaimed marshes and on the seaward side mud flats, divided by innumerable creeks.

CHAPTER XI

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

EVERY village has a church, and it is a poor building that does not contain some feature which will repay the visitor. Some villages contain the remains of a castle or a monastery, an earthwork or a manor house, but even where these are lacking, every town and village will repay inspection, for the varying character of the architecture of its domestic buildings, especially the inns, farm-houses and buildings, wayside crosses and inscriptions, weathercocks and vanes, wind- and water-mills, or the many peculiarities that give individuality to a locality.

Both Norfolk and Suffolk contain many beautiful villages, and to assert with any degree of assurance which is entitled to priority is happily impossible, as it would bring down on the head of the author maledictions from advocates of rivals to the claim. Much depends on the time of year, the weather conditions, and the position of the sun, and much more on personal predilections.



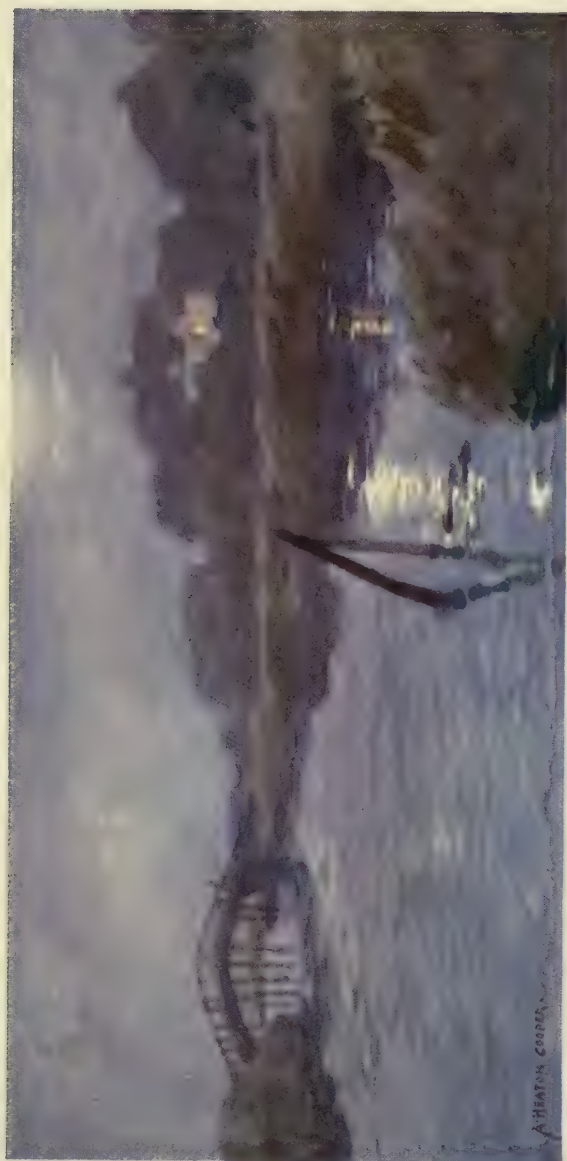
Many things have been said, and it is very common to say that the coast of Suffolk is the most beautiful in the world. There is no doubt that the coast of Suffolk is very beautiful, and it is very common to say that the coast of Suffolk is the most beautiful in the world.

WALBERSWICK, SUFFOLK—MOON AND LAMPLIGHT

The most picturesque village on the Suffolk coast

The most picturesque village on the Suffolk coast is Walberswick. It is a small village, but it is very beautiful. It is situated on the coast of Suffolk, and it is very common to say that the coast of Suffolk is the most beautiful in the world.

Walberswick is a very beautiful village. It is situated on the coast of Suffolk, and it is very common to say that the coast of Suffolk is the most beautiful in the world. The village is very small, but it is very beautiful. It is situated on the coast of Suffolk, and it is very common to say that the coast of Suffolk is the most beautiful in the world.



Yet, admitting this, and mentally reviewing the claims of the 1,200 villages, by a process of elimination it is possible to say that the attractions of certain villages are much more apparent than those of others. Among the coast villages there are few with claims to beauty, though there are "bits" in most of them which delight the eye of the artist. Walberswick, in an unattractive setting, has richness of colour and heterogeneous architecture. Blakeney is prettily placed, and its narrow winding street and ancient quay have many beauties, while Stiffkey owes everything to the picturesqueness of its situation in a curving chalk valley with steeply sloping sides, on the shoulders of which cluster some of the houses, while others are near the pellucid waters of the stream. Many of the inland villages are prettier, some because of the woodlands in which they are embosomed, others because of the beauty of their surroundings or because they are mainly composed of houses and cottages of varying styles of architecture, toned by the sunshine and storms of several centuries. In Norfolk the first group includes Stratton Strawless, Dunston, Didlington, and Roydon near Diss, while in the second and third groups are Hunworth, Starston, Heydon,

Bawburgh, Norton Subcourse and Woodbastwick. Among the inland villages of Suffolk, Kersey, on a tributary of the Brett, is a favourite with artists, with its square-towered church, quaint gabled buildings erected at odd angles in the winding street, and its ford overshadowed by a tree. Others noted for their beauty are East Bergholt, the birthplace of John Constable, the famous artist, Blythford, Capel St. Mary, Cavenish, Euston, Freston, Hessett, Holbrook, and Wherstead.

The four Wiggenhalls—St. German's, St. Mary the Virgin, St. Mary Magdalen, and St. Peter's—lie close together on the banks of the Great Ouse, and seem to some extent left derelict by the decrease in the use of the river for trading purposes. The traffic on the river and on the bridges at Magdalen and St. German's caused the inns to flourish, and there are still five in St. German's with a population of 496 and six in Magdalen for a population of 761. Two of the quaintest village scenes in Norfolk are to be found here. One is the view from Magdalen Bridge as one crosses the Ouse westwards, the "Dolphin" and "Cock" inns, with their hanging signs guarding the portals on the other bank, and beyond them the narrow

village street opening on to the fine church. At St. German's the finest picture is the approach across the bridge from the west, emerging on to a green with the church on the right and inns and cottages on three sides and part of a fourth, which is completed by the river bank. The inns evidence the old-time prosperity, and both here and at Magdalen the portions of the villages adjoining the river seem as though they have changed but little during the past 200 years.

The majority of the older cottages in Norfolk and Suffolk are built of "clay lump." For this purpose the local clay was dug, trodden out by horses and mixed with "spear grass," then roughly shaped into blocks, allowed to dry for a summer, and built into a wooden framework, a thatched roof being sewn on to the rafters. There is evidence that houses properly built and maintained will last for 200 or 300 years, though their durability depends on the promptitude with which repairs are done. Farmhouses, maltings, schools, workhouses and other buildings have also been constructed of this material. The gables are sometimes tarred and the outside of the buildings usually covered with "slip," tinted with a wash of white, yellow or pink, though the last-named

may be considered the traditional colour in the Eastern Counties. Even the "wattle-and-daub" houses, which are not so lasting as "clay lump" will stand for two or more centuries. In these a rough wooden frame was erected, the interstices being filled with small branches, usually of hazel, laced with tar-line, and termed "rizzes," on which clay was daubed. Local red bricks, which mellow with age to a delightful tone, have also been used in some districts; pebbles from the beach are popular in villages within ten miles of the coast; the beautiful golden carstone is a common material in north-west Norfolk; the hard lower chalk in certain areas of west Norfolk and west Suffolk, though flint is more general; while hand-picked stones seem to have been most generally used in churches and monasteries. Cottages of the smaller yeomen were sometimes of flint with brick dressings, and high-pitched roofs thatched with reed or straw, having an increased thickness at the ridge, the edge of which was cut into various patterns, pointed or scalloped. Where pan-tiles are used they are generally dark brownish-black and glazed.

In many Norfolk villages the inn is even more interesting than the church and the hall, both

and the established and traditional houses in the
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EAST BERGHOLT, SUFFOLK

A village noted for its beauty

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architecturally and for its associations—memories of famous visitors, of social gatherings, and of the daily life of many generations of inhabitants. Some of the oldest of the existing inns were probably originally established as guest houses in connection with the priories, sometimes maintained by the priory, and sometimes owned independently by an innkeeper with an eye for custom. To the former class belonged the “Green Dragon” at Wymondham, which was anciently the property of the priory, and appears to date from the latter part of the fourteenth century. The curious carvings on its half-timbered front have been sadly mutilated, but there are still fine old beams and panelling in the interior. The mantelshelf in the kitchen is 11 inches wide and $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length, black with age, and supported by three brackets consisting of quaintly carved heads. The position of the “Maid’s Head” at Norwich is probably also due to the proximity of the priory. There is the capital of a Norman pillar in the cellar, and Mr. Walter Rye considers that it originally belonged to William de Beaufoy, who died in 1091. It has borne its present name since at least 1472, when it was mentioned in the “Paston Letters,” and

was therefore obviously not named after Queen Elizabeth, but more probably from the Virgin Mary, as pilgrims on their way to the various Norfolk shrines would be among its best customers. Earlier still the inn was known as the "Molde Fish" or "Murtel Fish." It was here that the King's commanders breakfasted on the morning of the fight in the city during Kett's rebellion; it was afterwards both a royalist and a revolutionary resort; and the first Freemasons' lodge in Norwich was held here in 1724. Another famous inn, in all probability originated by the need for accommodating visitors and pilgrims to the adjoining priory, was the "Bell" at Thetford. In 1493 there was an inn of that name belonging to the College of the Virgin Mary in Bailey End, and some of the fifteenth century building remains in the gable of the present structure adjoining Bridge Street. By a sixteenth century bye-law, all fish caught in the rivers were to be exposed for sale at the Bell Corner, and the Rev. J. Rous, rector of Santon Downham from 1623 to 1644, records that proclamations were posted "On the Bell corner post at Thetford." The present building is mainly Elizabethan, with a picturesque courtyard. Inside is an ancient door with a key

of remarkable size, several old fireplaces with quaint Dutch tiles, and carved beams. Many good tales are told of Betty Radcliffe, who was landlady here at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries, when the inn was a famous coaching-house. In the fifteenth century an inn called the "Dolphin" belonged to Thetford Nunnery, but the present building dates from 1694, as the large figures in red brick indicate. Its sign portrays something that "never was on sea or land." Near by is the "Spread Eagle," a rambling Elizabethan structure. Both these were in the ancient market place, and close to the convent of the Augustinian Friars founded in 1387 by John of Gaunt.

The "Dolphin" at Norwich was the residence of Bishop Hall after he had been expelled from the see of Norwich, during the civil war of 1643. Portions of the building are earlier than 1587, though this date appears over the entrance, where there are the merchant's mark, arms and initials of Robert Browne, who was Sheriff of Norwich in 1595. Brick diapering with flints is used with good effect, and there is a brick-quoined gable dated 1595. The main portion of the house is of flint with stone dressings, and

is dated 1615. Picturesqueness is added by a little lean-to roof between the bays, which serves as a porch. The "Boar's Head," Norwich, was originally the "Greyhound," which dated from 1456, and the "Bell" Inn, Orford Hill, the "Cross Keys" in Magdalen Street, and the "Adam and Eve" in Palace Street are also considerably over 300 years old. The "White Hart" at Scole is of mellowed red brick, with walls 27 inches thick, large and lofty rooms, a spacious yard, and a magnificent oak staircase. It was built for James Peck, a Norwich merchant, and his initials and the date 1655 appear in the central gable of the façade. The famous sign which spanned the roadway and cost £1,057, and the bed which held thirty or forty people are both merely memories, though the brick pediment on which the sign was supported still remains. An old clock which existed here a few years ago had the figures IIII., V., and VI. completely worn away by the fingers of carriers and drovers feeling the time in the early mornings in days when getting a light was a much more laborious process than striking a match. The "Crown" Hotel, Mundford, probably dates from before 1600, one gable showing fine brick and



flint panelling while the ancient beams are very crudely carved. The "Star" Hotel, Great Yarmouth, is a good example of a building dressed or faced with flints, but is more famous for its fine plaster ceiling. The old inn at Thorpe Market is noteworthy for its architecture. It is built of flint, with brick quoins, crow-stepped gables and chimney-stacks. The windows are stone-mullioned and transomed with pedimented heads and the pediments of windows now blocked remain in each apex of the main gables. The porch is of unusual construction, having an entrance at the side. In a spandril of the doorway of the half-timbered "Horseshoe" at West Tofts is the date 1563; the "Crown" at Bawdeswell is a half-timbered dwelling; and the "Princess Victoria" at Walpole St. Andrew is dated 1651. On the front of the "Maid's Head," Newton Flotman, is an effigy of Bacchus. These were frequently to be found on inns in the eighteenth century, but very few survive. Many other inns have noteworthy features. There is, for example, the balcony and sign of the "Swan" Hotel, Harleston, which are fine specimens of the wrought ironwork of the eighteenth century, and the plaster work representing Bishop Blaize

blessing the sheep in the long first-floor room of the "Fleece" Inn on the quay at Wells-next-the-Sea. The festival of St. Blaize, patron of all woollen workers, is not widely celebrated to-day, but time was when February 3rd was one of the great days of the year in all industrial districts.

Of the more modern signs, pride of place may be given to that of the "Black Horse" at Castle Rising. The inn was erected at a time when Sir Redvers Buller was trustee of the Castle Rising estate, and the carved sign with its fine black horse and clusters of grapes cost over £100, and was made on Sir Redvers' estate at Crediton, Devonshire. The sign of the "Maid's Head," Old Catton, has a medallion over the doorway with what is presumably a maid's head, and a more elaborate sign on the gable with an even more battered maid's head and a merchant's mark—the whole a replica of an old sign on Tombland, Norwich. The sign of the "Green Man" at Rackheath shows a man dressed in green, carrying a bundle of sticks and leading a donkey. The local suggestion is that he was "green" to carry the faggots and lead the donkey, which ought to have carried both him and the sticks.

One of the most interesting of the many fine old

inns in Suffolk is the "White Swan" at Clare, the fifteenth century sign of which is perhaps the oldest in England. It is a solid piece of wood, which at one time served as a support to an oriel window, and bears carvings of a swan, with small conventional trees and remarkable "fruit," and the arms of France and England at one end, and those of Mortimer and De Burgh at the other. A number of inns with central courtyards still remain; the "Rose and Crown" at Sudbury and the "White Lion" at Hadleigh are typical examples. An upper chamber of the "Fox and Goose" Inn (built in 1616), which adjoins the churchyard at Fressingfield, was formerly a guild hall, and the rent of the inn is still applied to the repair of the church. In the "Angel" Inn at Lavenham there are some fine ceilings, and one even more curious in a lower room of the "Red Lion" at Martlesham, the sign of which, the crowned lion of Flanders, was probably at one time the figurehead of a ship, and is said by tradition to have come from one of the Dutch warships destroyed in the battle of Sole Bay in 1672. It originated the local saying "As red as Martlesham Lion." One of the most ancient inns in the county is the "White Hart" at Wickham

Market, the name of which was altered from "The Harte" in the reign of Henry VII. Facing the Shire Hall at Woodbridge is the "Bull" Inn, in the stables of which is a stone to the memory of George Carlow, who, in accordance with his own wish, was buried there in 1738. The inn was formerly kept by John Grout, who, when informed that the town ought to be honoured because Tennyson, the Poet Laureate, was staying with Edward Fitzgerald, replied, "Dissay, anyhow he didn't fare to know much about hosses when I showed him over my stables." On the front of the "King's Head" at Woodbridge are some grotesque fourteenth century heads of carved wood. There are good back elevations and ornamental plaster ceilings in inns at East Bergholt and Debenham. The hanging sign of the "Cock" Inn at Hadleigh and the post sign of the "Crown" Inn, Stoke-by-Nayland, are fine examples of eighteenth century ironwork. The old "Neptune" Inn at Ipswich, which was built in 1639, still retains some good panelling, a mixture of the linen-fold variety, with a frieze of ornamental panels betraying foreign influence. This was the house of Thomas Eldred, who voyaged with Thomas Cavendish, the second

Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. Another famous inn is the "White Horse" at Kersey, which still has an ancient pot crane of wrought iron in the fireplace. The "Stag" Inn, Bury St. Edmund's, is belted with old oak carving from Hadleigh Church. Grapes and vine leaves form the pattern, and a shield bears the date 1630, while another has the woolcombers' arms. Another ancient inn, the interior of which is of considerable interest, is the "Bull" Inn at Long Melford, which has a galleried courtyard, and the "Three Tuns" in Halesworth Market Place and the "White Hart" at Blythburgh have some old panelled rooms. The "Half Moon" Inn at the corner of Foundation Street and Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, has panelled rooms, a fine mantelpiece, and for a corner post a carving of the fox and geese. The lower part of the shaft is plain, but is surmounted by an allegorical group in high relief. "At the extreme angle of the cap," says Mr. J. S. Corder, "is a fox, the emblem of all that is crafty and cunning, attired in a monk's hood, preaching from a small pulpit to some geese, who all gaze at him with upturned faces. On the other side of the cap Reynard has discarded his sanctimonious disguise, and is carry-

ing off one or two of his too credulous audience by the neck." In Ipswich also is the "Great White Horse" Hotel, in which Mr. Pickwick had his encounter with the "lady in yellow curl papers." When on his way from Lowestoft to London in 1736, George II. stayed here, as did Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton in 1800. The "Falcon" Inn in the New Market Place at Beccles was noted for its cock-pit, and here mains were fought between the gentlemen of Norfolk and Suffolk. In 1776, when John Wesley visited the town, he preached in the cockpit, which may perhaps account for the entry in his diary :—"A duller place I have seldom seen."

In common with other tradespeople, publicans have a natural aversion to giving credit, but the method by which they inform their patrons not infrequently has a novelty of expression lacking in more formal business announcements. Some years ago I copied the following lines in "The Case is Altered" at Blo' Norton :—

"The Brewer doth crave
His money to have
The distiler say have it i must
So good people you see
How the case is with me
In this tap-room i never can trust."

Another admonition on the impossibility of granting credit I noted at the "Rampant Horse," Gayton, in 1911. This read as follows :—

"To pay my bills you know I must
That makes me careful who I trust
Chalk is useful, say what you will,
But chalk won't pay the Brewer's bill."

The most frequent notice in East Anglian inns is, however, a gentle reminder as to the desirability of altruism :

"All you that stand before the fire,
To see you sit is my desire,
That others may, as well as you,
See the fire and feel it too.

"Since man to man is so unjust,
None can tell what man to trust
I've trusted many to my sorrow,
Pay to-day and trust to-morrow."

One of the most conspicuous features in many villages is the windmill, which often forms a landmark visible for miles. Some of them are of considerable antiquity, but as they are burned down, destroyed by gales, or collapse from old age, the number gradually grows less, as it is difficult for the miller dependent on the wind to compete with the modern steam roller mills.

There is no sameness, no uniform pattern among old windmills. They were built by local men, with local materials, and of curious local designs. The oldest European form is the postmill, in which the whole of the sail-carrying structure revolves on a great central post, or tree-trunk, a long lever, or "tail-tree," being used to bring the sails to face the wind. The millstones, usually only two pairs, and rarely more than four, are fixed in a low circular chamber of stone or brick, above which rises the wooden framework which carries the sails. A few of these still remain in Norfolk and Suffolk, but the type is not so primitive as that of some of the Essex postmills. In the more highly developed forms of postmills, as in one at Saxtead Green, near Framlingham, the staircase runs on wheels, and has a small wind-wheel at the top of the framing which springs in a V-form from the top of the stairs. The postmill was generally succeeded at a fairly early date by the tower or smock mill, in which the mill itself consists of a stationary tower, usually of brick, with the wind-shaft carried in a rotating top or cap to which the sails are fixed. In some of the larger mills there are sometimes six pairs of stones. There are



FLATFORD MILL, EAST BERGHOLT, SUFFOLK

The birthplace, in 1776, of John Constable. One of the fine water-mills which are so conspicuous in East Anglia



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generally three floors. The top one holds the sacks, while on the one below the grain is tipped into the hoppers by which it reaches the rapidly-circulating millstones, to come lower still in the shape of flour into great bins and sacks. In the two counties there are probably about 150 wind-mills still used for milling, a reminder of the leisured ways of old England, before the modern fever for speed and machinery seized the land.

Giving a human interest to many a picturesque river-valley, the fine old weather-boarded water-mills frequently provide subjects for the artist and photographer. Though they are certainly the reverse of fire-resisting, some of them have survived from the early days of the eighteenth century. With a few exceptions, they are only found in the upper reaches of the Norfolk and Suffolk streams, where the current runs more swiftly, and some are on mere brooks, where a sufficient head of water can only be obtained by a dam and an artificial mill-pool. There are at least fifty-four of these in Norfolk and fifty in Suffolk, and in most cases they so harmonise with their surroundings as to appear an integral part of the landscape. Probably few of them have failed to be transferred to canvas, and some, such

as Horstead, with its fine arcading and row of small gables, and Shotesham, are popular subjects. Seventeen water-mills stand on the Suffolk Stour and its tributaries, thirteen on the Waveney and its tributaries, twelve on the Bure and its tributaries, and eleven on the Wensum and its tributaries.

The position of ferries is limited by several considerations. They are not needed on the higher reaches of rivers, where, if a bridge be not available, a ford is usually accessible. On the lower reaches of rivers, the more important crossings are usually bridged, and ferries are generally only used where the amount of traffic is not great and is yet sufficient to justify the necessary outlay. The number is consequently limited. Apart from casual ferryings at certain spots on almost all rivers, there are ferries for pedestrians only at Pull's Ferry, Norwich, on the Wensum; at Langley and Coldham Hall on the Yare; across the Alde or Ore to Slaughden Quay; at Runham on the Bure, called "Runham Swim"; at Henley across the Deben to Ramsholt; at Martham to give access to the marshes north of the Thurne; between King's Lynn and West Lynn on the Great Ouse; and the Upper and Lower

Ferries in Yarmouth Harbour. Much more picturesque are the pontoons which provide transport for vehicular traffic, and are worked by means of a windlass and chain, a practice probably of considerable antiquity. These are still in operation on the Bure at Horning and Stokesby ; and on the Yare at Surlingham, Buckenham and Reedham ; while in Suffolk there are well-known steam ferries at Walberswick over the Blyth, at Bawdsey over the Deben, and at Felixstowe over the Orwell. In these days of hustle and tear, one is carried back to the leisureliness of olden times by the sight of a motor car being slowly ferried across a stream by the labours of a youth who turns a windlass and winds up a chain fastened on shore on each side, the chain lying on the bed of the river when not in use. Or it may be a big farm-wain, laden with the spoils of the harvest field, part of a flock of sheep, or a herd of cows, that braves the danger of a river trip. At one time or another almost everything that uses the road is found on a ferry. For the ordinary passenger on foot or with a bicycle a boat is usually used, and even on the comparatively narrow rivers of East Norfolk the trip is sometimes accompanied by a spice of excitement. A gale raging

down an adjoining reach will raise waves of quite respectable dimensions and make the task of the ferryman one of difficulty if not of danger.

It will be impossible ever to ascertain the number of wayside crosses in East Anglia in mediæval times. Some of them were calvaries such as still commonly occur in Brittany ; others marked the boundaries of liberties, hundreds, or parishes. Ancient records frequently contain references to crosses of which the very sites are unknown. A weather-worn stone cross on three tiers stands in the market place at Lavenham ; there is the base of a stone cross dividing the liberty of St. Edmund and the liberty of Thetford on Barnham Cross Common, Thetford ; the base of another on Maid's Cross Hill, Lakenheath ; the shaft of the churchyard cross is preserved in the Hall gardens at Westley ; and in the Rectory garden at Worlingworth is a sculptured marble pillar found in the cliff at Aldeburgh, though whether this is Roman, Celtic or mediæval has not been satisfactorily determined. The wayside crosses still existing in Norfolk are few in number and poor in quality. Castle Rising is the finest, but owes much to restoration. Of the unrestored or only slightly restored examples, that in Langley



HORNING FERRY, ON THE BURE, NORFOLK

Looking downstream. There is a pontoon which provides transport for vehicular traffic.



A HEATHEN COOPER

Park takes precedence, though not on its original site, followed by Aylmerton, Wilton, Titchwell, Binham, Drayton and Hardley. The last-named marks the boundary of the jurisdiction of the city of Norwich on the Yare, and here, until recent years, the officials of the Corporation made their solemn proclamation: "If there be any manner of person who will absume, purfy, implead, or present any action," etc.

Of ancient memorials, the most important is that just off the main road from Norwich to North Walsham, close by the Westwick boundary. It consists of a base, a tall shaft, boss, and smaller shaft, and is said by tradition to have been erected in commemoration of the defeat of Litester's insurgents by Bishop Spencer during the Peasants' Rebellion of 1381.

Readers of Thomas Hardy will remember the fine passage in "Far from the Madding Crowd," in which he describes the old tithe-barn at "Weatherbury" where the shearing was taking place. These interesting relics of past days are not so uncommon as might be expected, though perfect specimens are very rare. There are some extremely fine barns in East Anglia though but few tithe-barns seem to survive. A good specimen,

however, still stands near the school at Stalham, and there is another at Horning. At Mildenhall are the ruins of the old tithe-barn which was at one time the subject of bitter contention between the lords of the manors of Wamil and Mildenhall. Probably the finest in Norfolk, though not a tithe-barn, is that at Paston, which was built of dressed flint, with an elaborate hammer-beam roof that, says Mr. Walter Rye, "would shame many a West country and Midland church." A tablet over one of the small entrance doors bears this inscription: "The Bilding of this Bearne is bi Sir W. Paston Knighte." On the gable facing the road is a similar tablet bearing the date "7 of Februarius 1581" and over it are three defaced images. A barn at Waxham, near the Tudor manor house of the Wodehouses, has the reputation of being the largest in Norfolk. Another barn of noble proportions stands near Hales Hall, but this has been spoiled by placing on it a roof of galvanised iron. There is an ornate gable-end on a farm building with the date 1678 on the tie-rods at Carleton St. Peter, and on a barn at Ingham the date 1696 in wrought iron wall-ties—a familiar device in the Low Countries.

The old-fashioned carriers' carts, which came

into the towns once or twice a week, often from a considerable distance, will soon be but a memory, for the up-to-date carrier has discovered the advantages of motor traction, and our "country cousins" now travel in style in what our forefathers—had they but known them—would have described as "elegant equipages." For whatever the demerits of the vanishing carriers' carts, the new carriers' motors are by no means second-hand and shabby, but are some of the finest vehicles on the road. The carriers' carts differed in detail but were generally four-wheeled vehicles, either roofed in, with steps behind, or covered with tarpaulin after the style of a trader's van. Passengers squeezed in wherever they could, on the box-seat beside the driver and in every nook and cranny not occupied by goods. For on many routes the carrier was almost the sole means of transport for miscellaneous goods between the larger centres and the smaller towns and villages. On his return the carrier's van resembled a village general shop. It contained the purchases, big and little, of all his passengers, but in addition there might be a bicycle or two tied on the roof, a bundle of rose bushes, a few rolls of wire-netting and linoleum, boxes of all sorts and sizes, until

(to parody the description of the village school-master) it became a matter of amazement that "one small van could carry all he took." I do not remember to have seen a record of a carrier fined for furious driving. With a load that often taxed the strength of his horses he went along at a steady jog-trot, dropping a passenger at cross-roads here and there, or a parcel of some kind at a wayside farm or cottage. These carts are a survival from a period long anterior to the railways, and their passing cannot be viewed without some tinge of regret.



A. BEATCH - COOPER

CHAPTER XII

RURAL LORE

UNTIL the coming of the railways many parishes were almost self-contained, and generation after generation of the poorer inhabitants, and even some of the yeomen, lived in the same village and sometimes in the same house. Opportunities for removal were not many and the expense was often prohibitive, so that son succeeded father, often in the same post, for as far back as records are available. As a result of this, intermarriage was common, and most of the labourers in a village bore some relationship to each other. Even now there are East Anglian villages where most of the inhabitants are grouped under a few surnames, and records of their ancestors are to be found in the sixteenth century parish registers and sometimes even further back when other documents have been preserved. There is thus often a proof of "long descent," and sometimes a genuine ancestral dwelling, poor though it may be, possibly of an antiquity coeval with

that of the local manor house. The number of persons who are born, live a long life, and die in the same cottage, is astounding to a townsman whose neighbours often change their dwellings once or twice a year. The stability of the agricultural population is one of the main factors in the continuity of local tradition, and it is by no means beyond the bounds of possibility that the traditional views as to ancient earthworks and buildings may have been handed down from father to son quite from the time of their origin. During the past century, the advent of cheaper and more general means of locomotion, the removal of many families to Yorkshire and Lancashire, and emigration to the Colonies, have in many cases broken a family connection of generations with a particular parish, and the process seems likely to be even more rapid in the future than in the past. Many instances could be given of the continuity of family service, such as the case of the marshman to the Haddiscoe Drainage Board, the present holder being the fourth successive generation of his family, who have held the position for nearly 100 years, while the office of sexton of Great Barton Church has been held continuously by one family for 129 years.

Prizes offered in 1919 for men in the Watton district who had worked continuously on one farm for the greatest number of years were taken by men with seventy and sixty-six years' continuous service.

This continuity of tradition manifests itself in various ways. It is apparent in the names of the farm animals. Certain names for horses are common all over both counties, and are to be found on almost every farm, while others betray local and personal influences. From an average of a considerable number of farms, I think it will be found that the most popular names are Beauty, Captain, Brag and Prince, while other traditional names are Gipsy, Billy, Darling, Dipper and Depper, Kitty, Tinker, Boxer, Briton, Daisy, Peggy, Proctor, Snip, Farmer, Punch, Diamond, Smart, Duke, Short, Flower, Bunny, Tom or Tommy, Blossom, Smiler, Nelson and Scot. Then there is the group of personal names—Dolly, Gilbert, Jack, Sammy, Judy, Fred, George, Fanny, and May; those which may be taken as complimentary to appearance or breeding, such as Bonnie, Spruce, Jolly, Spanker, Smiler, Jove, Sprite, Duchess and Damsel; and those with some ancient relation to the animal which it is

difficult now to understand. This includes Toppler, Gyp, Tinker, Sharper, Snip, Trimmer and Traveller. With the ordinary farm horses the naming is usually left to the teammen, and this accounts for the persistence of certain traditional terms over a wide area. The cows on an average farm are named in somewhat similar fashion, but here the range is wider in one sense, and more limited in another, for feminine Christian names are usually applied, and Rose, Daisy, Polly, Molly, Jenny, with a few variations such as Blossom, Cherry and Brighteyes are those most generally in use.

Unchanging tradition is further evidenced by the words of direction to farm horses, and the various calls to stock. With the increasing employment of mechanical methods for agricultural operations, it is by no means improbable that the next generation of farm labourers will find no use for the conventional cries of command to plough-horses. In a sixteenth century song the waggoner is described as "with nailed shooes and whipstaffe in his hand, who with a hey and a ree the beasts command." "Hey" corresponds with "heit," and tells the horse to bear hither, or to the left. In East Anglia this command is

either "cup-hey," "cub-baa," "cub-bay," "coopy-hay," "cuppy-whoa," "cuppy-whee," "cuppy-hoult," or "hait-wo" (French *hay ho*), and is applied to horses in a team. The "ree" of the mediæval waggoner meant right, as in "riddle-me-ree." To turn a horse to the right the forms are "wooch," "woosh," "wish," and "whoash," from the French *gauche*, yet used with the reverse meaning, as "Wooch wo," go to the right. The ordinary calls "Weh!" "Woh!" for stopping the horse, and "gee-ho," are traceable to Norman-French, and are known in France, while in Italy "Gee-ho" is "Gio." Cowley, in his "Guardian," has a line: "Ere Phoebus cry Gee-hoe unto his team." "Gee-up" is the East Anglian form, and probably the child's "Gee-gee" has a like origin. "Coop, coop," or "cup, cup," are the usual calls to horses in a pasture.

The musical cattle-call, "Coop! co-op!" is corrupted from "Come up," as in Jean Ingelow's song, "Come uppe, Whitefoot, come uppe, Lightfoot, come uppe, Jetty, rise and follow." The same author has the couplet—

"Cusha, cusha, cusha! calling
Ere the evening dews are falling."

“Cusha” is an ancient cow-call, possibly a corruption of the French “couchez.” The use of corrupted French for cattle-calls is by no means unknown, as Sir Claud Alexander states that when he was a boy the Ayrshire dairymaids called the cows with the words “Pria” (*Je vous prie*) and “Prouchy” (*approchez*). Cattle-calls differ even on different farms in the same district. “C’up” is applied to animals of any description and is sometimes used in a peculiar way as “Come along, c’up.” “Coo” (with the o’s long) and “cooo” (with the first o long) and “cuh, cuh, cuh” (slowly) are also cattle-calls, while “hoa, hoa, hoa,” is sometimes used. “Cuh-chick, cuh-chick, cuh-chick” (very quickly) is the call by which fowls are brought to the feeding-place in some districts, while a variant is “coopy, coop, coop.” For ducks there is a distinctive call, namely, “cuddy, cud, cuddy.” “Suss, suss,” is said by Forby to be an invitation to swine to come and eat their mash, and “chou” (from the old French) is used to drive away pigs or to set dogs upon them. There is a widespread belief that thirteen eggs must be placed under a hen to ensure success, a theory supported by the couplet :—

“Twelve for to hatch ;
One for Old Scratch.”

In the last book which he wrote, Mr. Herbert Spencer deplored the vanishing glories of the countryside. “The vast hedges overrun with clematis and bryony, and wild hops, are,” he said “not tolerated by the advanced agriculturist. All of them seem fated to go and to leave only post and rail or wire fences, or dwarf, closely-cropped hedges.” To a certain extent this is true. Year by year the wildling hedgerows, 15 or more feet in height, are becoming more restricted, though notable examples survive in some of the “drifts” in Breckland, the borders of the chalk downs, the outskirts of Broadland, and in the “Sandland” of East Suffolk. They are difficult to find over all the good arable land which forms the greater part of the area of both counties. Isaac Taylor remarked that “England is pre-eminently the land of hedges and enclosures ;” and Nall stated that in his day “as a result of the scarcity of timber, nowhere are hedges suffered to stand to so great an age and growth as in Norfolk.” “Cottage roofs of thatch,” Herbert Spencer continued, “are being everywhere replaced by slate or tiled roofs, and

there is a gradual disappearance of half-wooden houses. Nowadays it is a rare thing to find gleaners, and in many parts of the country the gathering of mushrooms is forbidden. No longer, on passing a barn on a winter's day, may we hear the alternating thuds of the flails, and no longer may we be awakened on a bright morning in June by the sharpening of the scythes—a sound so disagreeable in itself, but made so delightful by associations. This disappearance of remnants and traces of earlier forms of life, intensely picturesque as well as picturesque by association, will deprive posterity of much of the poetry which now relieves the prose of life." To a certain extent this is true. Newly-erected thatched buildings are very rare, and as the old ones fall into decay, or are re-roofed with tile and slate, the number must gradually lessen, but examples still survive in most villages, and in some almost all the houses are so roofed. The flail has gone the way of the sickle (I have not seen the former in use for twenty-five years), but the music of the scythe and the "rub" may still be heard in the meadows on June mornings. One rarely sees a seedlip or a dibbling iron, or even a pair of clappers with which the crow-scarer threatened

to knock the birds "down backwards." In fifty years' time there will probably be a difficulty in procuring these obsolete farming implements for museums.

The local peculiarities by which the farm implements of one district were formerly distinguished from those of another have to a large extent been banished by the production of tools in factories instead of by the village craftsmen, and the more general migration of farmers. It is, however, still true that, comparing one district with another, East Anglia for example with Yorkshire, each district has its own methods of farming, its own agricultural traditions, and its own time-honoured types of farm implements. In East Anglia, where the slopes are easy, and the produce of the productive hay and corn fields demands ample transport, the great farm waggons with their "bokes" and "raves" or "rafe-boards" are of generous proportions. The traditional colours seem to be red and blue, though the more modern specimens are usually varnished oak colour and are lighter in build.

It seems not impossible that the time will quickly come when the scythe will be obsolete. Until a short time ago every proper scythe,

made after the old-fashioned and time-honoured style, was stamped with the initial letter of the day of the week when it was made. This was placed just where the crank broadened to the blade, to give each scythe its individuality. A scythe with the letter "F" or "S" was most desirable, as the best scythes were supposed to be those made towards the end of a week.

Some of the marlpits which in parts of the two counties are to be found in almost every field, are evidently of great antiquity, for the practice of marling land appears to have been known quite at the beginning of the Christian era. It is possible to prove from the evidence of contemporary documents that in certain instances these chalk and clay pits date back at least 500 years, and were associated with the culture of the open fields which for many centuries were part of the prevalent agricultural system, but in little more than a century seem to have passed out of popular knowledge, and to have left very little trace behind. After the Reformation the practice of marling became almost obsolete, but again came into use during the agricultural revival of the eighteenth century. Some years ago a shepherd at East Harling, descendant of

a long line of shepherds, told me the following archaic rhyme :—

“ When the sand doth feed the clay
Woe and rue to England lay ;
When the clay doth feed the sand,
There is joy in Angle-land.”

This is probably more ancient than the familiar version which runs :—

“ He who marls sand
May buy the land ;
He that marls moss
Suffers no loss ;
He that marls clay
Throws all away.”

“ Marl ” is a word with a very elastic meaning, and is applied indiscriminately to chalk, disturbed chalk or “ dead-lime,” and chalky and other boulder clays, so that it has no geological significance. The introduction of artificial manures has to a large extent done away with the necessity for marling, though certain farmers still consider it beneficial, and maintain a practice which has probably persisted for nearly 2,000 years.

The introduction of turnips into England, which revolutionised our system of agriculture, is generally ascribed to “ Turnip Townshend,” but though it doubtless owed much to his example and

precept, he was by no means the pioneer, as is proved by at least two East Anglian instances. In his "Chronicles of Theberton," a Suffolk village near Leiston, Mr. H. M. Doughty records that in 1674 the rector agreed with his parishioners as to customary tithe, one item being :—" If any crop of turnips shall be drawn to sell or to feed fat cattle, tithe in kind ; but if spent only in feeding milch cows, nothing." Mr. Doughty remarks that this early mention of turnip culture as a farm crop is noteworthy. It has been said, by good authority, that the root was first used for winter sheep feed, ten years later. Mr. Francis Rye, in the "Calendar of Correspondence and Documents relating to the family of Oliver Le Neve, of Witchingham," records that on July 4th, 1698, Robert Fisher wrote to Oliver Le Neve that "The sheep are clipped, the turnips sown, and the meadows will begin to be cut to-day." On April 29th, 1699, Fisher stated that he had 400 sheep and twenty-one bullocks bought at St. Faith's Fair and "fed abroad with turnips." On August 25th, 1704, John Millicent wrote from Barham to Oliver Le Neve that he had "such an aversion to the eating turnips that I could not live upon them if I was to have the Indies."

Their importance as an agricultural crop in Norfolk was attested by Pratt in his "Gleanings in England" (1804). He said that "In the county of Norfolk are 660 parishes, and upon the average 260 acres of turnips grown in each, making 171,600 acres, the mere hoeing of which at 6s. per acre amounts to £51,450 per annum; consequently more than one-seventh of the county is in turnips, as the total quantity of acres in the county is 1,148,000."

In many ways agriculture is a conservative industry, but comparisons over a series of years indicate many changes. In Norfolk rather more than a third of the county, and in Suffolk slightly less than a third, is devoted to corn crops, barley occupying the largest area. Sugar beet and tobacco are new crops, while an attempt is being made to revive the cultivation of flax. The Suffolk horse known as the "Suffolk Punch," the Norfolk hackney, Red Poll cattle and Suffolk black-faced sheep are the chief local breeds.

A century ago villages were to a large extent self-contained and most of the needs of the inhabitants were supplied by workers within their own borders or in the nearest town. Many specialised occupations were carried on by men who travelled

from village to village, and were eagerly welcomed, as they were the repositories of the gossip of the countryside. This was often the case with the cider-makers, who until a few decades ago made cider for farmers and others, generally at the farms, but sometimes at their own residences. Farmers grew large quantities of apples, which were stored in the barn until the arrival of the cider-maker. The juice was expressed by a solid oak frame 5 feet in height, with a cross-bar in which were two large iron screws with a wrench, which worked on the press-board loosely fitting into a box. One cider-maker made the drink for the farmers in a large district, the charge being 1s. a sack, and the sender finding a man to run the pulper. When apples were plentiful, this man made from 200 to 300 gallons from his own orchard. The pulp was carefully put into horsehair cloths, before being placed in the press, and the difficulty of procuring these was one of the reasons for the discontinuance of cider-making on the farms. The drink was used in the farmer's own house, but chiefly for the labourers during harvest, a gallon of beer or cider being a fairly moderate daily allowance for a reaper.

When the late Dr. C. B. Plowright of Lynn was medical officer of health for the Freebridge Lynn Rural District Council he drew up a report on the dairies and cowsheds for the Local Government Board. He found that in almost every case scrupulous cleanliness was observed in the dairies, partly due to superstitions which had come down from time immemorial as to milk and milking—superstitions which are widespread in East Anglia. One of the most general of these was that unless the hands of the milker were washed before and after milking, the cow would cease to give milk. Vessels and utensils used for milk were never used for any other purpose, nor was the milk ever stored in any place where there were bad smells, as it was believed that the liquid would absorb the aroma. It was also regarded as an antidote to all kinds of poison, and was believed to absorb and convey infectious diseases from the atmosphere. Milk must always be kept quiet, and therefore the dairy door was never shut violently. To spill it in milking, or “milk wide of the pail,” was always to be avoided, as should any be spilt on the cow’s feet and legs, the animal would become dry. When a cow was milked, the first few drops

were used to moisten the palms of the milker, for it was said not to be well to milk with a dry hand. This was probably an instance of sympathetic magic observed with the idea of increasing the quantity of milk obtainable from the animal. There was also another necessary rite. The teats were "drawn," that is a few drops were milked upon the floor, not in the pail. The reason given was that by this means the duct of the teat was washed out and impurities avoided, but Dr. Plowright considered that this was clearly a survival of the rite of sacrifice, a libation poured upon the ground to propitiate the gods and ensure a plentiful supply of milk. It was also usual to throw away the last few drops of milk which remained at the bottom of the vessel which had contained it. This was said to be in order to get rid of any impurities, but it was so general that there was little doubt it was a folklore survival, like that of the beggar throwing away dregs from the cup from which he had taken a drink. Many of these customs still survive in the majority of dairies in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Sketch Map of NORFOLK & SUFFOLK



SKETCH MAP ACCOMPANYING "NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK" BY A. HEATON COOPER AND W. G. CLARKE. PUBLISHED

Sketch Map of NORFOLK & SUFFOLK



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